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Mitch MacLean
1991-2011. CONTRIBUTED

Tabitha Stepple
1990-2011. CONTRIBUTED

Tanner Craswell
1989-2011. CONTRIBUTED

CLARESHOLM TRAGEDY: ONE YEAR LATER

A memorial remains in place just off Highway 2, north of the tiny Alberta town of Claresholm. It was just metres from this site that gunman Derek Jensen shot and killed ex-girlfriend Tabitha Stepple as well as rising baseball prospects Tanner Craswell and Mitch MacLean. Now, on the one-year anniversary of a tragedy that shook the nation, family members, friends and members of the Claresholm community say they are trying to move forward but will never forget the lives lost. More coverage, pages 12 & 13. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Council rejects $1B Crowchild plan

Majority report.
Among concerns cited: proposal's high cost, impact on neighbouring communities, emphasis on car traffic

ROBSON FLETCHER
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It appears the $1-billion proposal to bulldoze houses and majorly redevelop Crowchild Trail is dead in the water now that more than half of city council has signed a document to nix the idea.

"I would say that this one is finished," said Ald. Shane Keating , one of nine members of council to sign a motion instructing city staff to "cease design work of the Crowchild Trail Corridor Study."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, who also signed the motion, said there was just no way he could support the proposal.

"The particular plan that they came up with for Crowchild was a billion dollars that we don't have," he said. "It was like a crazy engineering dream — there was a ramp through the Pumphouse Theatre — and it just didn't make any sense."

Last month, the city held public forums to discuss the major reimagining of the route that could have included several new interchanges and two extra bridges over the Bow River.

Ald. Druh Farrell, who drafted the motion along with Ald. John Mar, was particularly troubled that the plan called for homes to be demolished to make way for the new infrastructure.

"We don't destroy communities any more for traffic," Farrell said. "That's a 1960s view and it was an outdated view then."

Council as a whole will vote on the motion at its Monday meeting.

Death of a sales pitch

- "The notion to me of bulldozing homes to throw in more roads, I just can't support that," Ald. Brian Pincott said.
- The motion directs city staff to return in March 2013 with new ideas for Crowchild Trail that, among other things, preserve "the integrity of adjacent communities."

One year, 100 million riders

From left, Calgary Transit director Doug Morgan, transit user Craig Hardy, 43-year transit driver Don Strom and Mayor Naheed Nenshi celebrate Hardy becoming the ceremonial 100 millionth transit rider of 2012. The celebration was part of what the mayor described as a "banner year" for Calgary Transit. "This is the first time ever we've welcomed 100 million passengers in one year," Nenshi said. "It shows that Calgarians are starting to see transit as a preferred choice for getting around the city." ROBSON FLETCHER /METRO

Inquiry.

'Courtesy' not queue-jumping: Sherman

In a day of emotional testimony at an inquiry into health-care queue-jumping, Alberta Liberal Leader Raj Sherman said he has written prescriptions, given advice and diagnosed politicians who dropped by his legislature office.

"Did it ever occur to you, Dr. Sherman, that that might be seen as a form of queue-jumping itself?," inquiry lawyer Michele Hollins asked.

"Not at all," he replied. "I wasn't on duty."

An emergency-room doctor by trade, Sherman has been a central defender of Alberta's health care.

He has also been one of the politicians who has pressed the hardest for the inquiry, called by Premier Alison Redford to determine if VIPs, politicians or other prominent people get better or faster care.

Sherman said he looked at minor rashes, eczema and other various ailments in his office. He said he would also write prescriptions and start patient charts.

Hollins asked him what would happen if someone walked in off the street to his legislature office looking for medical help.

"If I show up with eczema, are you going to write me a prescription or are you going to send me to my family doctor?" asked Hollins.

"Part of this, ma'am, is professional courtesy," he replied.

Earlier Thursday, witnesses referred to contemporaneous written reports and personal notes on interactions with officials who were urging special attention for VIP patients.

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Emergency rooms.
Wait times worse in urban centres: AHS

Emergency room wait times are staying stubbornly high in Alberta's urban centres, according to the latest numbers from Alberta Health Services.

While the numbers for wait times to be discharged or admitted are staying below government targets, they are keeping up in the face of a huge surge in visits.

According to the data, the 16 highest-volume emergency rooms in the province saw a 7.7 per cent increase in patient visits.

But AHS president Chris Eagle said some emergency rooms are seeing a more than 10 per cent annual increase.

"We are really struggling to bring in every kind of additional way of dealing with capacity in emergency departments that we can," said Eagle.

Alberta's target is to have 86 per cent of emergency-room patients seen and discharged in four hours. Across the province they are at 80 per cent.

In the high-volume, mostly urban emergency departments, the target is lower at 80 per cent, but the province is missing it considerably with only 64 per cent.

Eagle said that is in part because of the overwhelming demand surging through the doors. He said AHS is looking at why patients are choosing emergency rooms.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Stubborn wait times

- The second-quarter report showed that 557 patients were waiting in hospital beds for continuing care beds.
- The province's target for this is 350.
- The report also showed that 938 people were waiting in the community for continuing care beds.
- The province's target for this is 850.

Health expenses not compliant with policy

Dr. Chris Eagle, president of AHS, left, and board chair Stephen Lockwood speak with reporters following the release of two audits looking into expense claims from former and current executives. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Audits. Board chair wants to move past expense controversy

RYAN TUMILTY
Metro in Edmonton

Fully half of a former Capital Health executive's expenses were not compliant or not covered by the former health region's expense policy.

The audits Alberta Health Services (AHS) released yesterday indicate that of $360,000 in expenses former Capital Health chief financial officer Allaudin Merali filed between 2005 and 2008, only $180,000 complied fully with the health authority's policy.

Another $62,000 worth of the expenses had no policy available, and $103,000 were approved at the time but there was no supporting documentation. Some $5,600 worth of the expenses did not align with policies, and the auditors had trouble determining the compliance status of another $9,000.

Board chair Stephen Lockwood said he has asked all of those executives about their expenses and they will be paying some of the non-compliant expenses back.

Lockwood said he hasn't spoken with Merali and doesn't intend to, because he no longer works with AHS.

Lockwood said he is concerned about taxpayer funds, but he wants AHS to move past the expense issue.

"At some point in time this issue of expenses has to come and get behind us. We have got serious things in this province to deal with in relation to health care," he said.

Health Minister Fred Horne was not available Thursday afternoon, but his spokesperson Bart Johnston said he agrees it's time to move on to delivering health care.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Money. Alberta ups funding for homeless support services

Support agencies in Calgary will receive a boost in funding from the provincial government, according to a release.

Calgary agencies will get $27.6 million — an increase from last year of $5.7 million — which will be doled out to various programs, including creating a permanent supportive housing program.

"This new program funding will help individuals who have been homeless a long time, who interact frequently with health and correction systems," said John Rook, president and CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation in a statement.

Budget

- Alberta Health contributed $5 million in addition to the $60 million from the province.
- The Calgary Homeless Foundation received $2 million.

In total, the province will be distributing $60 million to organizations in seven cities as part of their 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, an initiative that was spearheaded in Calgary. METRO

Violence

Man walked into Calgary business with gunshot wounds: Police

Calgary police are trying to determine the events that led to a man walking into a Midnapore business with a gunshot wound.

Duty Insp. Kelly Chalmers said a man was shot Wednesday night in southeast Calgary. The victim reportedly walked into a restaurant at Midnapore Mall. Chalmers said he was taken to hospital.

"There is a residence involved, but we're not sure how," he said.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

How the Grinch had a point: We're all a bit selfish

No such thing as an unselfish act? Good works and giving make us feel good and are therefore selfish

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

There's a famous episode of Friends where Joey tells Phoebe that there's no such thing as an unselfish act, because if doing something for someone else makes you feel good, then, by definition, you're at least being a little selfish.

An earlier and more famous proponent of this theory was philosopher Immanuel Kant and it's always stuck with me, especially around the holidays, when every day you're overwhelmed with gift exchanges, Christmas cards and charity concerts.

Whether we like it or not, we're all a little selfish, particularly in the days leading up to Christmas. After all, one of the best feelings in the world is buying the perfect gift for someone and the anticipation that comes with waiting for your loved one to open it and acknowledge how perfect it is. You're in fact being selfish, but it seems worth it.

But just because you're selfish, it doesn't mean that your need to please can't benefit others less fortunate. This week, I took a lot of my gifts to Banker's Hall and had them wrapped by professionals. (Who knew there was such a thing?) In exchange for a donation to Calgary Family Services, I got my presents beautifully wrapped, which will surely earn me bonus points among the gifts' intended recipients, and, at the same time, I helped out a worthy organization. Similar operations are currently set up at Westbrook, North Hill and South Centre malls.

As great customer service seems to get harder to find, especially during the busy holiday season, I've recently been trying to up my recognition of it when it happens. But instead of taking to review sites like Yelp or Trip Advisor, I've been making a point of contacting managers, supervisors and bosses and letting them know about my positive experience, especially when it comes from a surprising place, like a cable provider.

Quote

One of the best feelings in the world is buying the perfect gift for someone and the anticipation that comes with waiting for your loved one to open it and acknowledge how perfect it is.

Sure, it's nice that someone great at their job is being recognized for it, and, yes, it feels awesome to hear the relief in a boss's voice when they realize I'm not calling to file a complaint. But aren't we all thinking, deep down, that by recognizing great service we'll get something out of it, whether it's a discount or a future deal?

Part of me thinks that Twitter exists solely for this reason. Recognizing great customer service isn't selfish, but expecting to get something out of it definitely is. Sadly, I don't think you can have one without the other.

Admitting that you're a little selfish at Christmas doesn't have to be a bad thing. Just think, every time you post a status bragging about buying a goat from World Vision or donating a gift card to promote ending poverty with U:End, you're letting your network know about original and meaningful Christmas-gift ideas. This means, for the first time ever, Joey was right. It's a Christmas miracle.

Sabrina Del Ben, lead chef at Lord Shaughnessy High School, stands inside her kitchen, where students will perfect dishes for the cafeteria, events at the school and other endeavours. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Centre dubbed 'the new frontier' for city public high schools

Tour. Media get look at Calgary's first career and technology centre at Lord Shaughnessy high

JEREMY NOLAIS
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In one room, students work quietly on engineering projects ripped straight from sci-fi flicks: hovercrafts, steam-powered catapults — you name it.

In another, those learning the finer points of aesthetics and cosmetology are able to try out the newest hair and make-up styles on real clients paying real money.

Then there are the welders and auto-body enthusiasts — even with music blaring, they hammer away and blow-torch with intense focus.

"This is really the new frontier for education," explains Cathy Faber, Calgary Board of Education superintendent for learning innovation, during a tour Thursday of Lord Shaughnessy High School.

The school, with 280 students currently attending part-time, was initially opened in September 2010 as a pilot project in line with the CBE's new career and technology studies strategy. To date, $9.7 million has been invested in the various programs and work areas, and Faber believes another $1 million — or less — will allow them to put on the final touches before accommodating 2,000 students, who would attend at various times 14 hours a day, six days a week.

Shaughnessy is not your average bricks-and-mortar school with rows of desks and chalkboards, Faber points out.

Students, instead, learn more traditional core subjects at another site for half the day and then head to Shaughnessy to hone their skills in a specific area. Students from 11 high schools attend the centre.

"It allows you to be more free with what you're learning and experiment more," said 16-year-old student Nicholas Pellicano in an electrical systems class Thursday. "It's a really great environment."

Future plans

- **Technology.** While Lord Shaughnessy will likely be the only Calgary Board of Education school fully devoted to career and technology studies, according to Cathy Faber, superintendent for learning innovation, a $100-million funding request has been made to the province to fund other centres in already-owned buildings.
- **Online.** For a photo gallery of the various work areas at Lord Shaughnessy High School, head to metronews.ca.

John Riad lines up for a shot for the Calgary Crush, Calgary's new professional basketball team. JONARD TAN/CONTRIBUTED

Pro basketball takes another shot at Calgary

Grassroots.
Calgary Crush aiming to develop basketball community by tapping into local talent

RYAN KESSLER
calgary@metronews.ca

John Riad has been surprised by the overwhelming support for Calgary's newest pro-sports team.

Riad and the Calgary Crush have two wins and no losses in the American Basketball Association (ABA). The ABA has nearly 80 teams across North America.

About 1,500 people showed up to the first two games of the Crush's inaugural season.

"We give fans a different kind of look, not being a college team. It's a faster-paced game," Riad said.

"We have lots of up-and-down basketball and probably some of the best dunks you'll see in the city," the University of Calgary grad added.

The Crush is Calgary's fourth attempt at pro basketball. The Calgary 88's played at the Olympic Saddledome between 1988 and 1992 until the World Basketball League folded.

The Calgary Outlaws lasted a season and a half in the early '90s before calling it quits from the National Basketball League.

The last team — the Calgary Drillers — had a short stint in the 2004-05 ABA season.

"Our program is different (from the other Calgary basketball teams). It's not about making money. It's about building the basketball community," said team owner Salman Rashidian.

For Rashidian, the most important thing is to give players from Calgary's universities a chance to continue their dream of playing pro basketball.

The Crush play the Kitsap Admirals on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon this weekend at SAIT.

11 games left

John Riad led the Crush in their home-opener win against the Washington Rampage, scoring 22 points.

- The Crush have 11 games left in the 2012-13 season.
- Tickets can be purchased from Brotherz Kutz and Groupseven in Calgary – adults pay $10, students and kids under 12 pay $5.

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Claresholm tragedy: How it unfolded

- **Dec. 14, 2011, evening:** Tanner Craswell and his former girlfriend Shayna Conway, along with close friends Mitch MacLean and Tabitha Stepple, meet at the Blarney Stone Pub in Lethbridge before parting ways for the Christmas holidays.
- **11 p.m.:** Stepple is confronted at the pub by ex-boyfriend Derek Jensen. The group quickly departs and proceeds with plans to drive Craswell and MacLean to the Calgary airport, where they are to catch a 7 a.m. flight home to Prince Edward Island.
- **Dec. 15, 2011, 3:30 a.m.:** RCMP first report they have closed off a long section of Highway 2 just north of Claresholm, about an hour's drive from Lethbridge, because of what appears to be a suspicious incident.
- **7 a.m.:** Media reports surface that a fatal car crash has occurred and four people have died.
- **Midday:** RCMP deem the incident a murder-suicide that has left four people dead and one woman seriously injured.
- **5 p.m.:** The Guardian newspaper in Charlottetown identifies two of the victims as Craswell and MacLean, budding baseball stars who had been playing for the

Continued on page 13

Highway 2. As national spotlight fades, town sticks to its roots

Tragedies like the one on Dec. 15, 2011, just don't happen in Claresholm.

In fact, Mayor David Moore struggled to recall the last time there had been a murder in the town of 3,780 before that fateful night.

"I am thinking it was 15 to 20 years," he said. "And before that, it was probably just as long."

Claresholm is tucked between Lethbridge and Calgary along Highway 2. Thousands of people pass through the town every day, but those who stop are usually there just to top up their gas tank or grab a quick bite.

Talk of the tragedy dominated the town until Christmas, Moore said, as dozens of television news crews flooded in and Claresholm was temporarily thrust into the national spotlight.

Townspeople say they still pay close attention to news about the incident, following closely the recovery of the lone survivor, Shayna Conway.

After all, Claresholm and the tragedy have become somewhat synonymous with each other, resident Amber Degroot said.

"When I decided to move back here in August, the first thing everyone was asking is if I knew what happened," she said.

But Rob Vogt, editor of the Claresholm Local Press, said plenty else goes on in the town, especially around Christmas. His paper covered the incident in-depth — one of his reporters picked up an Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association award for his work — but it generally fit in with a collection of other happenings.

"The way I have characterized it is it was an event that happened in Claresholm, not to Claresholm," he said, noting that none of the victims were from the area.

Moore said there was initial shock but added, "We're pretty resilient."

"It just opens your eyes to what can happen," he said. "Highway 2 goes right though the centre of town — you never know what's coming."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Claresholm residents Amber Degroot, left, and Colt Herrell say talk of the tragedy still comes up from time to time.
JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

A tragedy like last year's "just opens your eyes to what can happen," says Claresholm Mayor David Moore. "Highway 2 goes right though the centre of town — you never know what's coming." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

CLARESHOLM ONE A HARD THING TO

Grieving. Those closest to victims hold cherished memories close, and they cope in different ways

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Baseball was Tanner Craswell's life, and the 22-year-old yearned one day to teach others the game.

Mitch MacLean, 20, had come out of his shell after moving to Lethbridge, and had sharpened his skills around the diamond.

Tabitha Stepple was a kind and caring 21-year-old who visited her father nearly every day and was never without a smile on her face.

But it was on a cold winter road just north of the southern Alberta town of Claresholm on Dec. 15, 2011, that everything their family and friends had come to love about the three close pals was stolen by a gunman whose intentions will likely never fully be understood.

"Even if a person said they were going to do something like this, you wouldn't believe them," said Randy Stepple, Tabitha's father.

As it would turn out, his daughter's killer was also her ex-boyfriend and the two had continued to live together in Lethbridge, unable to break free of a lease they had signed together when times were better.

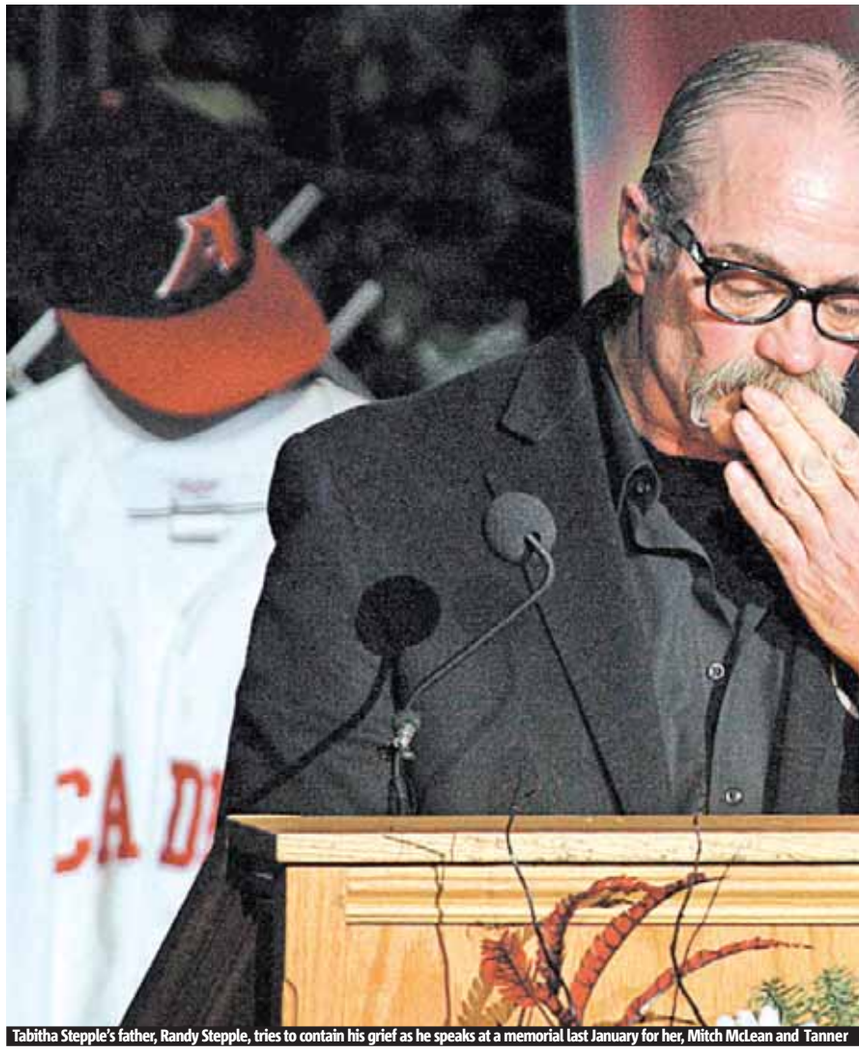
"It was a vicious, violent act against humanity," Randy Stepple said. "There are so many questions this many days later."

Questions remain for all of the families, as do the regrets.

"I never saw him play out there (in Lethbridge)," said Irwin MacLean, Mitch's father. "A couple of people told me how much he'd improved and I never got to see that."

For Craswell's sister Melissa Hall, a song or catchphrase can trigger memories of the bond she and Tanner once shared.

"I was eight years older," she said. "I kind of felt like his mother at times. There was a deep connection there."



Tabitha Stepple's father, Randy Stepple, tries to contain his grief as he speaks at a memorial last January for her, Mitch McLean and Tanner

And as the one-year anniversary of their loved ones' tragic deaths arrives, each family is working to find a balance between paying tribute to those lost and moving on.

"This day was bound to come," said Hall, who attended a memorial for her brother on Wednesday evening. "We feel very blessed to have such support around us … it's certainly a bittersweet time of year, but Tanner would want us to get through it."

Randy Stepple says he will forego a memorial planned for Saturday in Lethbridge, opting instead to ski in the mountains. Memories of his daughter, however, will not stray far.

"She was on the edge of perfect," he said. "The counsellors tell you all of this stuff you will go through … What I decided at the end of it all is I like the old person I was. No need to dig a pit — a lot of people dig a pit — it's not comfortable down there."

In Charlottetown, where Mitch grew up, Irwin MacLean, his wife and other family will gather by candlelight at a memorial site on Saturday. He still vividly recalls the last flurry of text messages his son Mitch had sent as his trip home drew near.

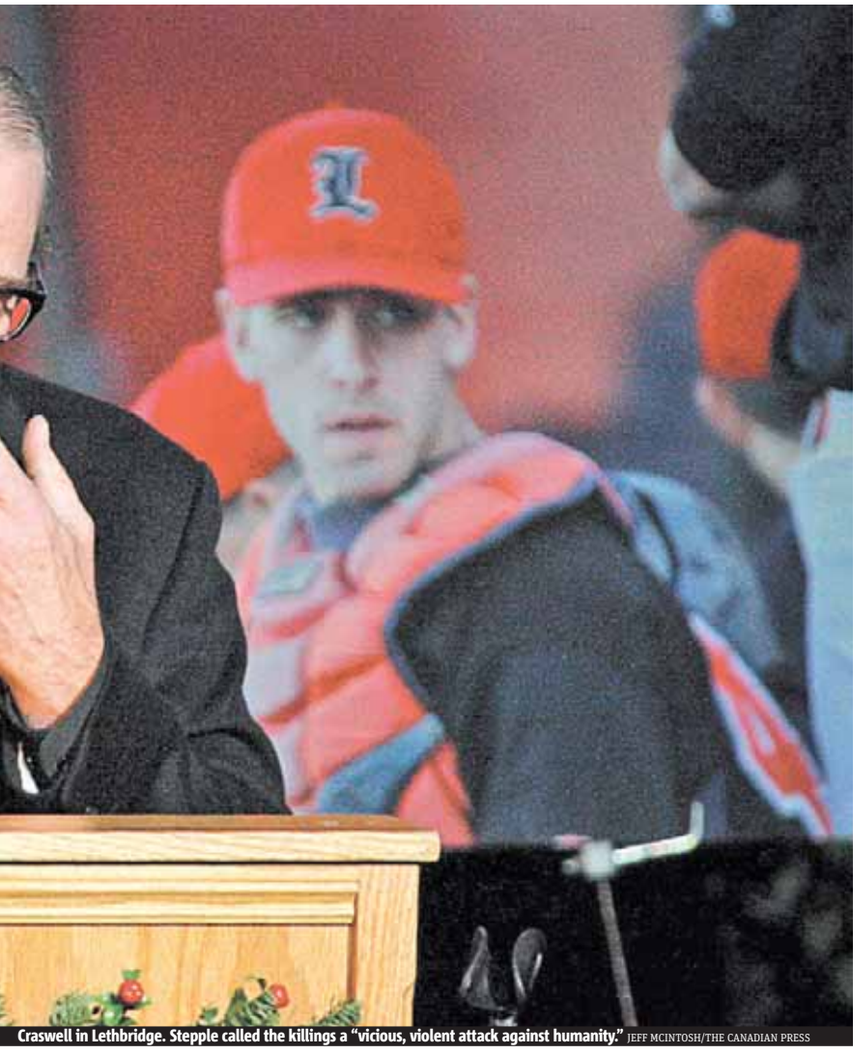
"It's hard to believe it's been a year," he said.

Lethbridge Bulls. Bulls teammates and friends later confirm Stepple as the third victim and say Conway is fighting for her life in hospital. A rumour also circulates that Jensen shot all four victims before turning the gun on himself.

- **Dec. 16**: Friends confirm the shooter to be Jensen and detail an on-again, off-again relationship with Stepple. The couple had first met late in 2010 and moved into a basement suite together. The restrictions on their lease had kept them under one roof, even though they eventually fell on hard times and separated.
- **Dec. 17**: RCMP release a detailed account of Jensen's actions. Armed with a 9mm handgun, 12-gauge shotgun and Winchester rifle, he had driven up Highway 2 in search of Stepple and her friends. Jensen spotted the foursome when they stopped at a 7-Eleven in Claresholm. He followed them a kilometre north of the town before ramming the vehicle. When Conway got out to see what had happened, Jensen shot her and then killed Craswell and Stepple in the vehicle. MacLean was found seriously injured in a ditch after trying to escape and succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

YEAR LATER: OVERCOME



Craswell in Lethbridge. Stepple called the killings a "vicious, violent attack against humanity." JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paying respects

Players to be honoured on Saturday

Friends will gather at the Lethbridge Bulls stadium at 4 p.m. on Saturday to pay tribute to former teammates Mitch MacLean and Tanner Craswell as well as their good friend Tabitha Stepple, Stepple's father, Randy, says.

The memorial is one of many that are planned or have already taken place as hundreds mark the anniversary of the Claresholm tragedy.

This year, the Craswell and MacLean families were invited to a Toronto Blue Jays game where they were greeted by players and presented with signed jerseys honouring their lost loved ones.

A scholarship has also been set up at Charlottetown's Colonel Gray High School in honour of Craswell and MacLean.

METRO

Gone from the diamond but still near the heart

Tyson Ford would have had a tough time choosing a best man between two former teammates, roommates and best friends from the Lethbridge Bulls.

Tanner Craswell and Mitch MacLean, both murdered on Dec. 15, 2011, in the same incident that took the life of Tabitha Stepple, played for the Prairie Baseball Academy (PBA) in Lethbridge.

Between baseball and school, Ford spent nearly all of his time with the pair. Even days off were spent together. The trio's annual hunting trip was always a highlight, Ford remembered.

"I told Mitch and Tanner they'd have to fight over the best man position in my wedding party," he said.

Ford had been texting MacLean the night of the killings, until he stopped receiving any replies. He remembered finding out about their deaths from friends back in Prince Edward Island, Craswell and MacLean's home province.

Craswell and MacLean's P.E.I. heritage appealed to their PBA coach, Todd Hubka. He said players from the Maritimes have an unmatched appreciation for opportunities given to them at the Lethbridge academy.

Tribute

- The PBA, the Lethbridge Bulls and Craswell's high-school baseball academy have set up a memorial scholarship in the players' names. It's awarded to young men — especially Maritimers — who want to pursue a career in baseball in southern Alberta.

Hubka didn't want to cause a distraction this past season by dedicating the year to the pair. Still, the team took the 2012 Canadian College Baseball Conference championship. It was their second consecutive title, but the first since losing Craswell and MacLean.

"We all knew what we were playing for, anyway. At the end, it was pretty special winning it. There were a lot of tears," Hubka said.

Team GM Kevin Kvame had a multidimensional relationship with both players. He was their general manager with the Bulls, but also played the role of a friend and "surrogate father" when they boarded at his home.

"They were so passionate and they brought that enthusiasm to their teammates. That made them so much more special," Kvame said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Prairie Baseball Academy players celebrate their league championship the summer before Tanner Craswell and Mitch MacLean were murdered in Claresholm. CONTRIBUTED/TYSON FORD

Lone survivor's long road to recovery going well: Friend

At one point, it was unclear if Shayna Conway would even live, much less walk again.

The now 22-year-old was found lying on Highway 2 on Dec. 15, 2011, after being shot three times by gunman Derek Jensen, who killed her companion and two close friends before turning the gun on himself.

Conway's friend Tyson Ford, who frequently exchanges texts with the spirited woman, says Conway is recovering with her family in Charlottetown.

In April, she traded her wheelchair for a walking stick and continues to make progress.

"She's staying positive," Ford said. "It's a tough thing to get over, but she's handling it the best I could have ever imagined. "She's a pretty strong woman, I would say."

Conway did not respond to requests for an interview and Ford said she is trying to maintain her privacy as the anniversary of the tragedy nears.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Shayna Conway in a Facebook photo taken nearly a year after she and three others were shot by Derek Jensen. FACEBOOK

Homegrown beauties. Fashion-forward locals make it big abroad

Holden Nowell isn't the only local model to find success abroad. Here are four Alberta-born beauties who have taken the fashion world by storm.

Sam Ypma

With elfin features and bleach-blond hair, Ypma has been quickly making her way up the modelling ranks. With her edgy look, the 20-year-old has landed magazine covers in Japan and Korea, and runway shows for such designers as Issey Miyake, Julien David and Jeremy Laing.

Lisa Cant

Cant was discovered at a Calgary IKEA when she was 14 years old. Since then, she has become one of Alberta's most successful models, appearing in numerous campaigns for the likes of Juicy Couture, Chanel cosmetics, Carolina Herrera Parfum and D&G. Her big eyes and doll-like face made her a popular pick for designers such as Nina Ricci, Marc Jacobs and Betsey Johnson.

Heather Marks

Marks was only 15 years old when she made her runway debut in the Givenchy spring 2003 couture show.

Like Cant, Marks has fine features, which has landed her the covers of Vogue, Italian Elle and Dazed & Confused, to name a few.

Lisa Kauffmann

Now a modelling scout and fashion blogger, Kauffmann travelled the world in the '80s and early '90s, appearing in ads for Armani, Karl Lagerfeld, L'Oreal and even Virginia Slims cigarettes. On her blog, Canarioca.blogspot.com, Kauffman has criticized fashion's use of overly skinny models.

LISA WILTON/METRO

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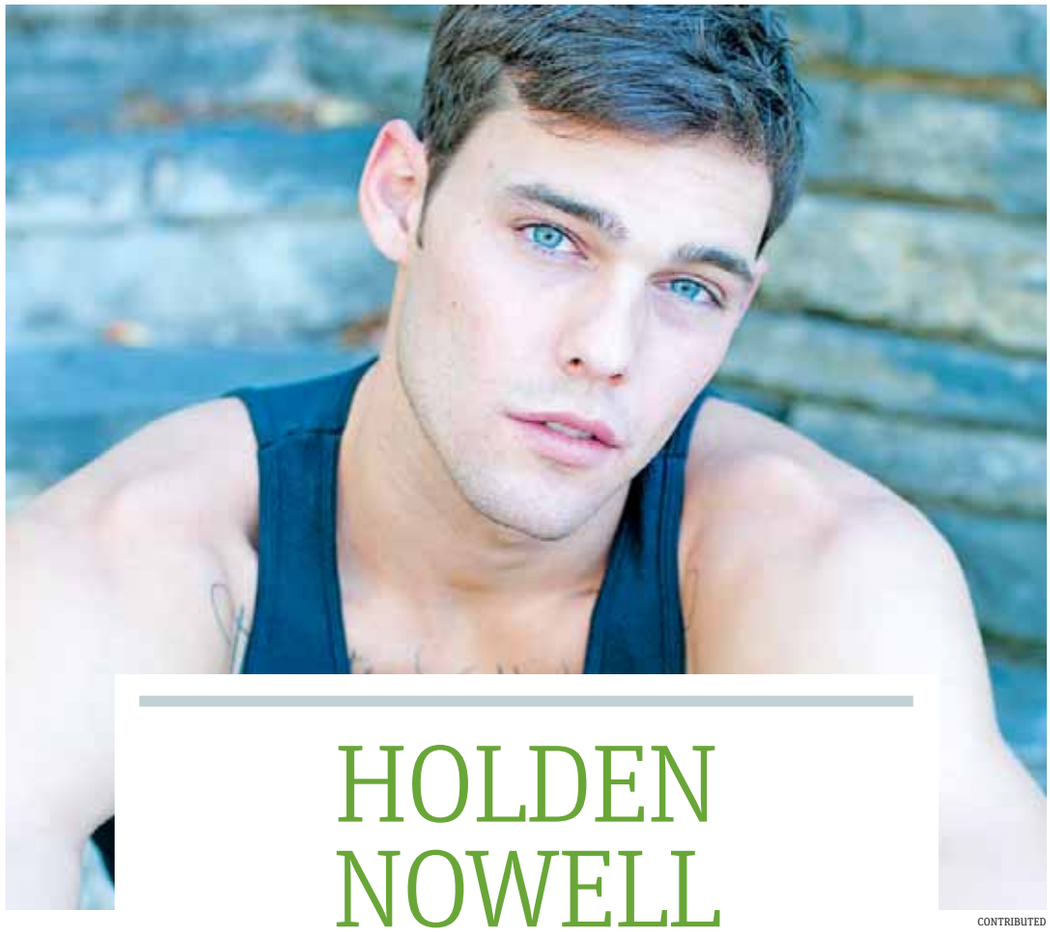

CONTRIBUTED

HOLDEN NOWELL

Carly Rae Jepsen's 'hot neighbour' wants to spin popularity of video into a full-time acting career

SUCCESS CALLS FOR CALGARY-RAISED MODEL

LISA WILTON
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It's been a big year for Calgary-raised model and actor Holden Nowell.

Earlier this month, People magazine included the 23-year-old in its Sexiest Man Alive issue thanks to his starring role in the video for Carly Rae Jepsen's massively popular summertime hit, Call Me Maybe.

"That was exciting," says Nowell, who's spent the past few months in Los Angeles trying to capitalize on his newfound celebrity.

"They sent me 10 copies of the magazine."

In town to visit his girlfriend for the holidays, Nowell tells Metro he's still surprised by the attention he's received since appearing as Jepsen's shirtless object of lust.

"I think one of the main reasons people recognize me from the video is because of my tattoos," he says.

"It's crazy. If I'm walking down the street wearing a shirt, no one notices me. But if I'm at the gym in a tank top, a lot of people notice."

Nowell says he's had men come up to him mid-workout and ask for a photo.

"They tell me that their girlfriends love the video," he explains.

"And then they ask, 'Can I get a picture with you so I can show my girlfriend when I get home?'"

The official Call Me Maybe video has been viewed more than 350 million times on YouTube, and its twist ending — Nowell's hunky character ends up giving his phone number to one of Jepsen's male bandmates — has received largely positive online feedback.

"I wasn't sure about the ending at first," Nowell admits.

"But I started to get feedback from a lot of people about it. My friends and family really love it and I get emails about how funny it is. It worked out, obviously."

Nowell, who's represented by Calgary agency Sophia Models, says although his modelling career is doing well now, he wants to focus on acting and is heading back to Los Angeles in February to audition for television pilots.

It's something Nowell may not have thought was possible four years ago when he was an aspiring but struggling model in New York City.

"When people hear that you've lived in New York for a year modelling, they think you live this luxurious lifestyle," says Nowell.

"But when you're trying to become a top model, it's dog-eat-dog. It's pretty intense."

Nowell left the modelling world for four years, doing odd jobs such as bartending and construction in Vancouver.

"After a few years of that, I thought, 'Maybe modelling wasn't so bad,'" he says.

"I guess that's when I decided to get back into it."

Falling into place

- Holden Nowell was first approached by Calgary agency ModeModels when he was in Grade 7. He declined and focused on sports instead.
- He went to L.A. in hopes of becoming a professional basketball player, but returned to Canada a year later after getting an injury.
- Nowell's former agency in Vancouver almost didn't send him to the Call Me Maybe video audition. "At the time, my agency didn't think it was even going to be on the radio."

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5 hallowed Christmas customs

Calgarians have many different Christmas traditions. Metro takes a look at five of the more popular ones. We also asked some locals what their favourite Christmas traditions are. You can find their answers online at metronews.ca.

COMPILED BY LISA WILTON/METRO
calgary@metronews.ca

1

Lions Club Festival of Lights/Zoo Lights

Traffic slows to a crawl on southbound 14 Street near 24 Avenue N.W. when the sun goes down during the Christmas season. That's because drivers are trying to get a good look at Calgary's iconic light display at Confederation Park without rear-ending the car in front of them. Just so you know, you can actually park your car and walk around. Even more popular is the Calgary Zoo's Zoo Lights spectacle, which is also a romantic date spot.

2

Choosing a Christmas Tree

While more people are heading to Canadian Tire or Costco for artificial Christmas trees, there are those who still make picking out a Christmas tree an annual family tradition. There are several tree lots set up around town, including charity lots such as the one at Elbow Drive and 50 Avenue S.W. The proceeds from those trees go to help children with disabilities at Camp Horizon.

3

Ice skating

The Bowness Park lagoon is one of the oldest and largest outdoor skating areas. The ice can be a little bumpy in spots, but there is plenty of space to practise your twirls and jumps even if it's busy. If you're looking for more centrally located outdoor rinks, try the lagoon at Prince's Island Park or the ice at Olympic Plaza. Nothing says yuletide like hot chocolate and the Boney M. Christmas album being piped through tinny speakers.

4

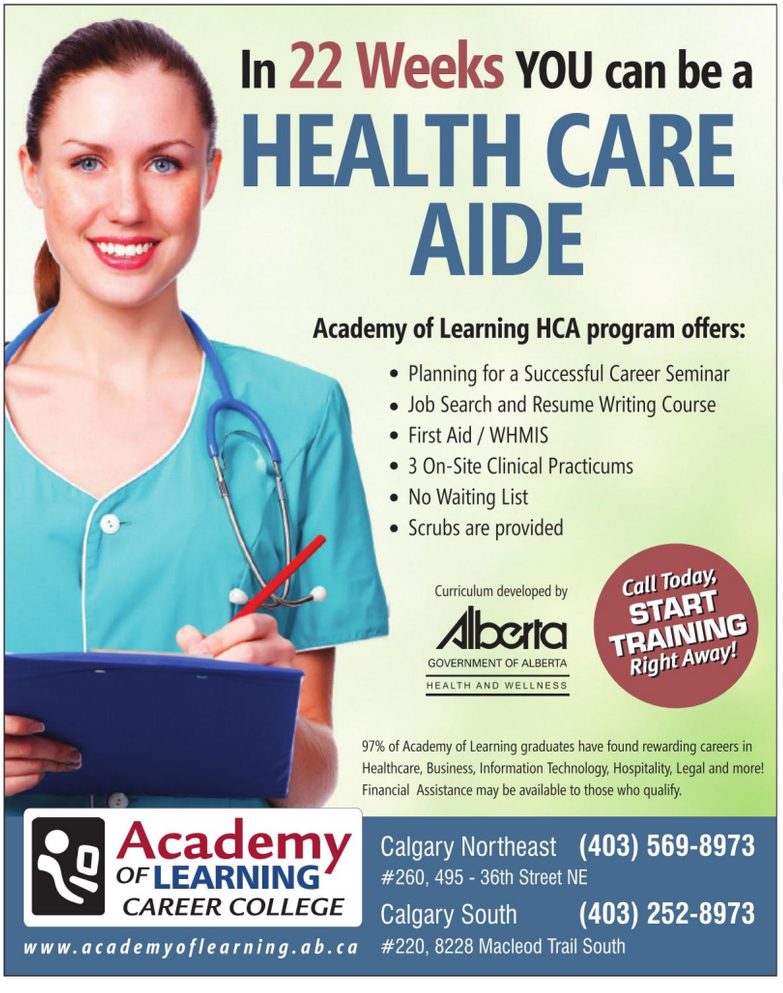
A Christmas Carol

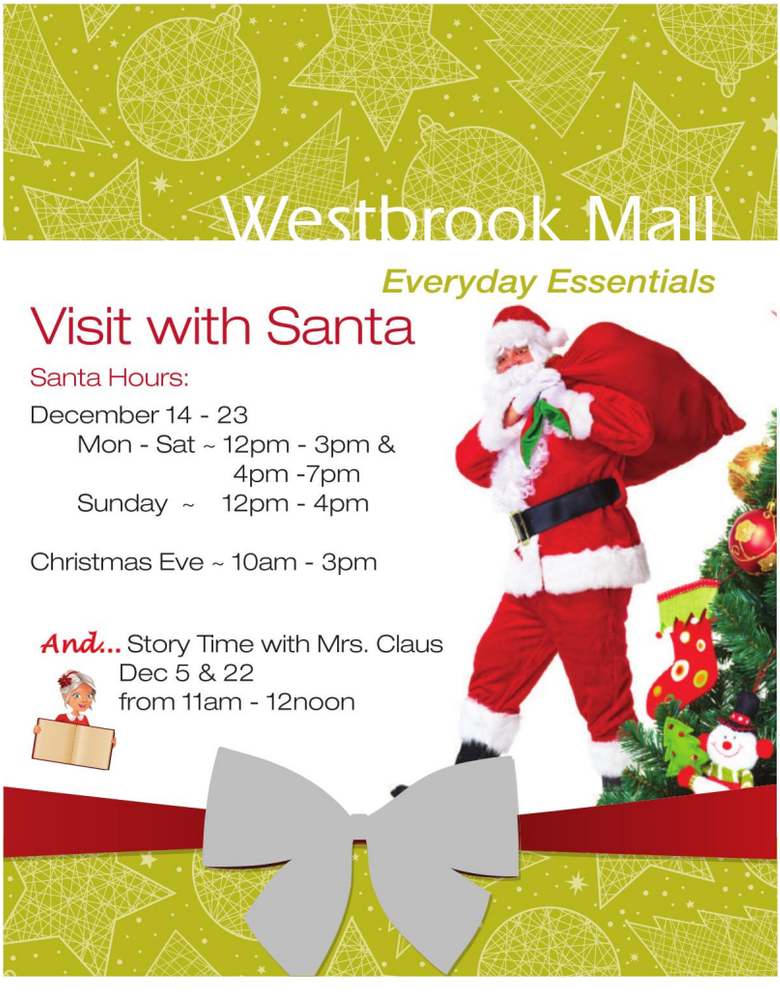
Charles Dickens' classic tale about greed and redemption has been made into numerous films and TV specials. But Theatre Calgary's annual stage production still attracts hundreds of families each year. In fact, more than 260,000 people have seen the show in the past 26 years, thanks in part to Stephen Hair's amazing portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge. Hair has starred in the role each Christmas season for the past 19 years.

5

Boxing Day blowouts

There are two ways Calgarians usually deal with Boxing Day. The first is getting up at an ungodly hour to wait in line to buy items we don't really need just because they're on sale for half-price. The second is getting up at a more reasonable hour and hitting a bar as soon as possible to deal with the stress of spending two full days with your family and relatives. Be warned, both ways can leave you with a hangover.





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Butcher's Choice

Burgers recalled over E. coli cases

Four cases of E. coli infection have prompted a recall of frozen hamburgers across the country.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Loblaw Companies Ltd. are warning the public to avoid certain Butcher's Choice Garlic Peppercorn Beef Burgers because of possible contamination.

The affected product is sold frozen in 1.13-kilogram packages with a best-before date of March 3.

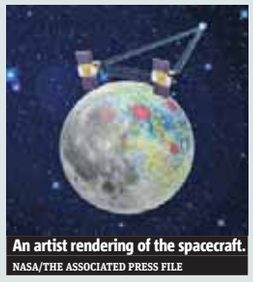
Public Health officials notified the CFIA on Dec. 5 that the E. coli cases could possibly be linked to a food source, which prompted the investigation into the meat. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ebb and Flow

NASA spacecraft to crash into moon

Twin NASA spacecraft will crash into the lunar surface next week after a successful mission mapping the moon's gravity.

They're aiming for a mountain that's far away from the Apollo landing sites. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An artist rendering of the spacecraft.
NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Oregon slayings

Mall shooter's act a shock to family

To police and witnesses, Jacob Tyler Roberts was a gunman on a mission, firing a semiautomatic rifle as he stalked through a U.S. mall, killing two people and seriously injuring another before killing himself. To shocked friends and family, he was just Jake, an easygoing 22-year-old who liked video games and talked about moving to Hawaii.

"Jake was never the violent type," Roberts' ex-girlfriend, Hannah Patricia Sansburn, told ABC News. "His main goal was to make you laugh, smile, make you feel comfortable. You can't reconcile the differences." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged plot to kill Bieber foiled at Canadian border

Wrong turn. Police say alleged would-be assassins arrived at the border by mistake, were arrested, then betrayed

A plot to kill Justin Bieber, allegedly masterminded by a 45-year-old prisoner obsessed with the star, was derailed when the accused would-be assassins accidentally ended up at the Canadian border, according to court documents.

Dana Martin, serving two life sentences in a New Mexico prison for the killing of a 15-year-old girl, told police he had hatched the scheme after Bieber never returned his messages.

Police recounted in an affidavit that Martin, who has a tattoo of Bieber on his leg, told them the sleight was partly why he dreamt up the plot.

"In the end, what Mr. Martin stated he was seeking was a measure of notoriety," police wrote.

Bieber was not the only target in the alleged conspiracy — police say two men Martin hired were also told to kill Bieber's bodyguard and two people unconnected to the star.

Justin Bieber at Z100's Jingle Ball in New York on Friday.
EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The men Martin allegedly had carrying out his plot were to use pruning shears to cut off the testicles of the first two victims in Vermont, kill them, then travel to New York, kill the bodyguard and abduct and kill Bieber, Martin told police.

Martin said he drew Mark Staake, 41, into his plot when they met in prison this year with claims he had a lot of money, a hide-out and gang connections.

Staake brought his 23-year-old nephew, Tanner Ruane, into the scheme, Martin told investigators.

Staake was released on probation at the end of October. The murder was to take place in New York at the end of November, according to the affidavit, when Bieber was there for a concert.

The team arrived in Vermont on Nov. 19 but realized on the highway they were headed to the Canadian border, according to the affidavit. They missed the last exit before the border and turned around to join the cars entering the Highgate Springs, Vt., point of entry, police said.

The U.S. border agent found Staake had an outstanding probation violation warrant and he was arrested.

Martin and Ruane spoke on the phone later that day, and when Ruane told Martin that Staake had been arrested, Martin called off the plot. In the phone call, recorded by authorities, Ruane expressed disappointment at the decision, saying they had found one of the victims' homes.

Martin told his story to police the next morning and Ruane was arrested with a pair of pruning shears and information on the locations of the first two intended victims, police wrote. New York State Police said Thursday that a "hand-written drawing of a depiction of Justin Bieber" was also found in the vehicle.

Staake and Ruane were arrested on charges of two counts each of conspiracy to commit murder and two counts each of conspiracy to commit aggravated battery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dana Martin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Staake
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanner Ruane
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal hoax. Details emerge on nurse death

A nurse was found hanging in her room three days after she had been duped by a hoax call from Australian DJs about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, a U.K. inquest was told Thursday. The case is being treated as an apparent suicide.

Coroner's officer Lynda Martindill said nurse Jacintha Saldanha was discovered hanging by a scarf from a wardrobe in her nurses' quarters Friday by a colleague and a member of security staff at London's King Edward VII Hospital.

Martindill said an attempt to revive Saldanha failed.

Police detective chief inspector James Harman said Saldanha, 46, also had injuries to her wrists.

He told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court that two notes were found at the scene and another was found among Saldanha's belongings. He said there were no suspicious circumstances involved.

Harman said police were examining the notes, interviewing the nurse's friends, family and colleagues and looking at emails and phone calls to establish what led to her death.

He also said detectives would be contacting police in the Australian state of New South Wales to collect "relevant evidence." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tories trumpet victims' rights after Turcotte release

Planned legislation. Federal government speaks out against release of Quebec doctor convicted of killing his two young children

The federal government sprang to the microphone Thursday to denounce the release of a Quebec doctor who killed his two children and trumpet long-promised new rules for those found not criminally responsible.

Guy Turcotte — convicted in the 2009 stabbing deaths of his three-year-old daughter and five-year-old son, but found not criminally responsible — was freed Wednesday after just 46 months under psychiatric care.

The Harper government, which rarely misses the opportunity to burnish its tough-on-crime armour, seized on the chance to repeat its promise to tighten up the rules on such releases in the name of victims' rights.

Guy Turcotte holds his daughter Anne-Sophie in an undated handout photo.

MONTREAL LA PRESSE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turcotte's release infuriated Isabelle Gaston, his ex-wife and mother to the murdered children, who described the decision as "freeing a criminal."

"Isabelle Gaston does not deserve to live in fear of her children's killer and neither do other victims of similar crimes across Canada," Heritage Minister James Moore told a news conference Thursday.

"Isabelle Gaston deserves better than this. The system has failed her."

Moore repeated the government's plan for legislation to deal with high-risk offenders found not criminally responsible for their actions on account of a mental disorder who may pose a threat to public safety if released.

The new law may require longer waits between formal reviews of the status of people held in psychiatric hospitals after being found not criminally responsible, he suggested.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. teen severely burned in deliberate attack: RCMP

The RCMP say one of the men charged with setting a sleeping teenager on fire at a house party in Kelowna, B.C., may have staged similar attacks in the past.

RCMP Const. Kris Clark said the 18-year-old victim was drunk when he fell asleep on the kitchen floor at the home during the early morning hours of Dec. 8.

The officer said the suspect allegedly poured a liquid on the back of the victim and then lit a match, while another suspect recorded the resulting fire on video.

Clark said the teen suffered major burns to most of his back but no one who was present in the home at the time told police about the incident, and the RCMP didn't become aware of what happened until about 12 hours later.

"We received a report, basically from the hospital, that an 18-year-old man was receiving treatment for second- and third-degree burns after being intentionally being set on fire," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CKFR

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Cancer cells hide from chemo: Study

Paradigm shift. New research may lead to new treatments

In a major breakthrough that will change the way cancer is studied and treated in the future, Toronto scientists have discovered a key reason why many tumours may return after chemotherapy.

In a new study, researchers at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre have shown that some of the cells that drive tumour growth hide from common chemotherapy drugs by going "dormant" — reigniting the disease when they awaken after treatment's end.

"That's where this paper lies, is to begin to add more depth (and) complexity to why cancers come back, why they recur," says renowned stem-cell scientist John Dick, whose paper was released Thursday by the journal Science.

Luba Slatkovska, head of research with the Canadian Cancer Society's Ontario division, agrees, saying the discovery represents a paradigm shift for research into the disease.

"John Dick is one of those researchers who is really changing the way we think about cancer," Slatkovska says. "We think that it's going to become one of the new hot topics … in cancer research."

Dick says: "Some of (the cancer driver cells) are actually quite sensitive (to chemotherapy) and other ones, particularly those ones that come from these so-called dormant cells, are much more resistant.

"And that can be responsible for relapse."

Slatkovska, who was not involved in the study, says she can imagine the creation of drugs that could wake up the sleeping cells and expose them to killer chemo.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In other cancer research …

Post-menopausal breast-cancer survivors may be more likely to develop diabetes, according to new research out of Toronto. Past studies show women with diabetes have a slightly higher risk of getting breast cancer, too.

Toronto-based researchers have discovered that cancer recurs in a way that hadn't previously been known. BECKY SHINK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Who needs animal skin when you've got lace?

Emily Lavender, 24, of Victoria, left, and Brandi Dugal, 20, of Windsor, Ont., pass out anti-fur flyers at the corner of King and Wellington streets in London, Ont., as part of a cross-Ontario PETA tour on Thursday. Their signs say Be an Angel: Don't Wear Animal Skins. London was one of four stops for the duo, who had already wooed downtown crowds in Ottawa and Hamilton. Windsor is the final checkpoint on the tour. JOHN MATISZ/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

F-35. Rae wants apology for scrapped jet purchase

The Conservatives' promised "reset" of its fighter-jet search falls far short of the open competition needed to guarantee taxpayers the best price for the big-ticket purchase, Liberal interim leader Bob Rae says.

A day after the Conservative government set aside its decision to purchase the F-35 and start afresh looking for a replacement for the CF-18 Hornet fleet, Rae expressed doubt that the effort was meaningful.

That's because cabinet ministers like Defence Minister Peter MacKay — who announced in 2010 that Canada would buy the F-35 — were unrepentant this week as the government ditched that decision and said a new search was needed, Rae said.

"This government hasn't said it's sorry. This government hasn't apologized to Canadians. No one in the government has taken responsibility. From the prime minister on down, they've pretended as if it never happened," he said Thursday.

Faced with soaring costs, the government performed a U-turn on its planned purchase and said it would evaluate other jets as well. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The bill

$44.8B

A fleet of 65 F-35s would cost $44.8 billion to own and operate.

Robocalls. Wave of lawsuits feared if wins overturned

The lawyer for Conservative MPs whose election wins are being challenged in Federal Court is cautioning the bar must be high to overturn the results of a vote.

Arthur Hamilton says throwing out the results in six ridings could unleash a torrent of legal challenges after each election.

Counting the votes on election night should do more than simply determine who is going to file a court case, he said Thursday.

"Because election night really means something," he said. "That's when electors get to see how the exercise of their franchise has turned out.

"We're in a setting now with these six applications where we don't even have an eligible voter that's come forward in any of the six."

Eight voters are challenging the results over allegations of misleading or harassing calls made during last year's federal election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caveat

"We still want the voters to speak, except in the most extreme circumstances where the court needs to intervene."

Arthur Hamilton, lawyer for Tory MPs

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South Africa. Mandela, 94, honoured as he recovers from lung troubles

South African President Jacob Zuma on Thursday honoured anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, who has been hospitalized since the weekend to recover from a lung infection.

Zuma unveiled a statue of Mandela in the city of Bloemfontein, also called Mangaung, which next week hosts the ruling African National Congress party's convention.

"We will be able to yet again pay tribute to a man who became a symbol of both our struggle for freedom and the free and democratic South Africa," Zuma said.

Mandela, 94, was admitted on Saturday to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, the capital.

"As we meet, Madiba is recuperating from a lung infection at a Pretoria hospital," Zuma said, using Mandela's clan name, often used here as a sign of affection. "We wish him a speedy recovery and assure him yet again of the love and support of many in the country and abroad."

A giant statue of Nelson Mandela is unveiled in Bloemfontein, South Africa, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zuma made the remarks while dedicating an airport in the name of Bram Fischer, a white South African who was also a key figure in the struggle against apartheid, the system of white rule that collapsed in 1994. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election night. Four disciplined after racially charged campus uproar

One student has been expelled and three others are being punished for their roles in a racially charged uproar on a Virginia college campus the night of U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election, the school said Thursday.

They were among approximately 40 students who gathered outside the Minority Student Union at Hampden-Sydney College on the night of Nov. 6 within minutes after Obama won a second term.

Some shouted racial slurs, tossed bottles, set off fireworks and threatened physical violence. Some left the building to confront the crowd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

From the student code of the private, tradition-bound school founded in 1775.

Early Andersen fairy tale found

Hans Christian Andersen. Handwritten work called Tallow Candle may have been penned when the author was a teen: Experts

For years, the sombre fairy tale about a lonely candle who wanted to be lit dwelt in oblivion at the bottom of a box in Denmark's National Archives. Its recent discovery has sent ripples through the literary world because it is believed to be one of the first tales ever written by Hans Christian Andersen.

The famed Dane wrote nearly 160 fairy tales in his life, including classics such as The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid. The tale of the candle may have been written when he was still a teen, experts say.

Retired historian Esben Brage said Thursday that he found the six-page text on Oct. 4 while searching through archive boxes that had belonged to wealthy families from Andersen's hometown of Odense in central Denmark.

The handwritten copy of the tale, entitled Tallow Candle, and dedicated to a vicar's widow named Bunkeflod who had lived across from Andersen's home, had been left seemingly untouched at the bottom of one of the boxes.

"I was ecstatic," Brage said. "I had never imagined this."

The short story tells the tale of how a tallow candle seeks help from a tinder box to be able to ignite itself. A senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense said the work is likely one of the author's earliest, written at the age of 18 — seven years before his official debut in 1830.

"I often get calls about stuff thought to have been of Andersen's hand. This time I was thrilled," said Ejnar Stig Askgaard, senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum.

It's "a very early attempt at prose," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Tallow Candle fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, pictured here, dates to about 1823. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Expert opinion

"We see traces of Andersen's history in the text, the language and the themes in the manuscript.... It all fits with him, it all bears his fingerprint."

Ejnar Stig Askgaard, senior curator at the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Denmark.

Tallow Candle

The Danish-language story Doedningen, from 1830, has long been considered Andersen's first fairy tale. That story was later re-written and published as The Traveling Companion, a grim tale about death.

- Andersen was born in 1805 in Odense, 170 km west of Copenhagen, to a cleaning lady and a shoemaker.
- He also wrote novels.

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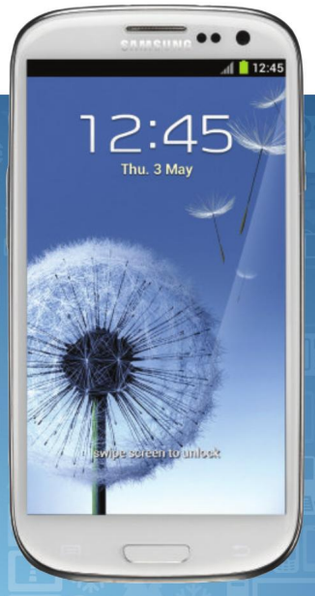

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Const. Alvin Pennick, in the U.K., writes inside a Christmas card. METRO WORLD NEWS

Christmas card crime-fighting raises eyebrows

U.K. Metro finds little support for 'strange' police strategy on streets of violent London borough

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

Police Const. Alvin Pennick takes a moment to jot down his thoughts in the snow-speckled Christmas card. "If you threaten another with a knife you will serve a mandatory sentence of minimum six months in prison," the message reads.

More than 200 suspected gang members are receiving these greetings from the police in Tower Hamlets in east London. The area has among the highest violent-crime rates in the U.K. capital, with dozens of organized gangs, and was the scene of fierce clashes during the 2011 riots.

"We want a safe Christmas and this is a warning, but we are also reaching out to those who want to turn their lives around," Caroline Gustavina of the Tower Hamlets Gang Unit, who launched the project, told Metro. "We can support people into work or education and if one person wants to live differently that's a fantastic result."

The card carries a hotline number for recipients to call, but Gustavina admits that there have only been abusive calls so far. This is not a surprise to people on the other side of the divide.

Greetings from U.K. police to suspected gang members. METRO WORLD NEWS

"It won't make a difference, people think it's a joke and don't read it," Stephen Ita, former gang member and youth worker with the XLP charity, told Metro. "Building engagement is not short-term — the police do some great work in the community but this isn't it."

A spokesman for the Connexions outreach program questioned the police's cultural awareness: "Since many of the gang members in Tower Hamlets are from the Bangladeshi Muslim community, a Christmas card is not the best message."

Local businessman Mohammed Shaed at the area's market said, "Gangs are always stealing here in big groups, but when they come the police are never here. This card idea is strange."

Machine-gun Santa

On Monday, police in Abbotsford, B.C., sent out a Christmas card with Santa (actually Chief Const. Bob Rich) holding a machine gun to gangsters and criminals in their community. The controversial card got mixed reactions and was even shown on the popular ABC show Live with Kelly and Michael. The inside of the card also featured a number for gangsters to call if they wanted help getting out of the gang lifestyle. METRO IN VANCOUVER

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Russia admits Assad could fall

Boys attend class in a city under the control of the Free Syrian Army in Aleppo province, Syria. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allies. But Moscow won't indicate whether it will change its pro-Syria stance at UN Security Council

Syria's most powerful ally and protector, Russia, began positioning itself Thursday for the fall of President Bashar Assad, saying for the first time that rebels might overthrow him and preparing to evacuate thousands of Russian citizens from the country.

The head of NATO echoed the Russian assessment, saying the Syrian government is near collapse following a nearly two-year conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people and threatened to ignite the Middle East. Assad appears to be running out of options, with insurgents at the gates of the capital and the country fracturing under the weight of a devastating civil war.

"An opposition victory can't be excluded, unfortunately, but it's necessary to look at the facts: There is a trend for the government to progressively lose control over an increasing part of the territory," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, Moscow's Middle East envoy, said during hearings at a Kremlin advisory body.

Still, Bogdanov gave no immediate signal that Russia would change its pro-Syria stance at the UN Security Council, where Moscow has shielded Damascus from world sanctions.

Russia's acknowledgment that Assad could lose the fight is an embarrassing blow to the regime, which describes the rebels as terrorists sent from abroad with no popular support. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian ties

- Russia has sold Syria billions of dollars worth of weapons
- The Russians also strongly oppose a world order dominated by the U.S., and they are keen to avoid a repeat of last year's NATO air campaign that led to the ouster of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, a former ally of Moscow.

Brawl breaks out in Ukrainian parliament

Ukraine's newly elected parliament on Thursday approved two presidential allies for the posts of prime minister and parliament speaker, but the vote was nearly overshadowed by a violent brawl between government supporters and opposition lawmakers.

The Party of Regions led by President Viktor Yanukovych and its allies secured a majority in the Verkhovna Rada following an October election condemned as unfair by the West. But three opposition parties made a strong showing and vowed to challenge Yanukovych's grip on power. Some took that literally. For the second day of the new parliament's work, fists flew as opposition lawmakers chanted "Shame! Shame!" and "No to defectors!"

Lawmakers fight around the rostrum during the first session of Ukraine's newly elected parliament on Thursday. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shortly after parliament began its work Thursday morning, opposition lawmakers swarmed the parliament's podium and a fight erupted with pro-government legislators. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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McAfee back in the U.S. with no money or home

Dual citizen. The software founder says he would be happy to move to England, awaits his girlfriends

John McAfee faces the media upon arriving in Miami on Thursday. CM GUERRERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-virus-software founder John McAfee said Thursday that U.S. authorities have made no efforts to question him since he arrived in Miami after weeks of evading Belizean authorities who want to ask him about the death of his neighbour.

"Why would they want to question me, about what?" a tired-looking but sharply dressed McAfee said Thursday from the steps of his South Beach hotel.

The multimillionaire was characteristically chatty and seemed to enjoy posing for pictures with tourists and signing autographs while talking about his two girlfriends and the alleged corruption in Belize that forced him to flee.

McAfee was deported from Guatemala after sneaking in illegally from Belize, where police want to question him in connection with the death of a U.S. expatriate who lived near him on an island off Belize's coast.

U.S. officials said there was no active arrest warrant for McAfee that would justify taking him into custody.

He said he was put on a plane to Miami where he will stay until his two girlfriends, 20-year-old Belizean Samantha Vanegas and a woman he called "Amy," can join him.

The 67-year-old British native said he has no money and no home in the U.S. and has been getting by on cash that a Canadian friend sent him until his property manager comes to Miami with his cash and credit cards.

If he's reunited with the women, he said he doesn't know where he'll live or how he'll rebuild his life.

Over the weekend, he said he would be happy to go to England, noting he has dual citizenship.

McAfee bristled as reporters repeatedly asked him why he won't answer questions from officials in Belize, denying he was under investigation.

He stressed that he was afraid to answer questions because dozens of officials there stormed his property, killed his dogs, handcuffed him for hours and tried to extort money.

He has not been charged with a crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High tides in Sunset Beach

A man looks at the overflowed Pacific Coast Highway in the Sunset Beach area of Huntington Beach, Calif., on Thursday. Astronomical high tides have caused minor street flooding in some low-lying areas along the Southern California coast. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auction

Botched-fresco artist goes eBay

The 80-year-old Spanish artist who became famous because of her botched restoration of a Christ fresco in a small-town church is auctioning one of her works on eBay for charity.

Celia Gimenez's oil painting Las Bodegas de Borja (Borja's Wine Cellar) was fetching $808 US Thursday, doubling its starting price after 31 bids. The sale closes Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vandal case

Man jailed for defacing art

A Polish man who defaced a Mark Rothko painting in London's Tate Modern gallery with black ink to promote an obscure artistic creed was sentenced Thursday to two years in jail.

Wlodzimierz Umaniec, also known as Vladimir Umanets, was arrested after visitors discovered a scrawl across the bottom of Rothko's Black on Maroon on Oct 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Strong loonie, stable economy boost holiday travel plans

New survey. Canadians will spend average of $563 on seasonal trips

Santa's already got his holiday travel arrangements in hand. A new poll found 60 per cent of Canadians also plan to travel over the Christmas-New Year's period. TOM TINGLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It looks like Santa won't be the only one on the move this holiday season.

The Bank of Montreal says a strong loonie and a relatively stable economy are fuelling a desire by many Canadians to get away over the Christmas-New Year's period.

According to the bank's 2012 Holiday Travel Outlook released Thursday, some 60 per cent of Canadians plan to travel over the holidays, spending an average of $563 apiece on their trips.

The survey found that while some 39 per cent planned to travel within their home province, almost one in five, or 19 per cent, were looking to go abroad.

The most popular destination outside of Canada was the United States, with 13 per cent of Canadians heading south of the border. Some three per cent chose Mexico as their preferred destination, while eight per cent collectively chose other destinations and 12 per cent said they would be going to other provinces besides their own.

Meanwhile, the survey found that those in Atlantic Canada were the most likely to travel over the holidays (80 per cent), while those in Quebec were the least likely (41 per cent).

To help fund travel plans, the report found that Canadians' use of reward points is on the rise. Two out of 10 Canadians (21 per cent) planned to travel on reward points this year, up seven per cent over last year.

BMO said the results were from an online survey conducted by Pollara from Oct. 11 to 16 with a random sample of 1,000 Canadians 18 years of age and over. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

74%

Travellers will be younger this holiday season, with 74 per cent of Canadians under 30 planning to travel compared with 42 per cent of those 65 and over.

U.S. economy. Little progress made on avoiding fiscal cliff

U.S. President Barack Obama and the top Republican in Congress met at the White House late Thursday but there was no immediate indication of progress in the standoff over the looming so-called fiscal cliff of tax increases and deep spending cuts that could trigger another economic recession.

With 18 days left before a deadline for averting the cliff, Obama and House Speaker John Boehner met for about an hour. They made no public comments following the sit-down, their second face-to-face meeting of the week.

The meeting came shortly after Boehner publicly accused Obama of dragging out negotiations on an agreement needed to avoid automatic across-the-board tax hikes and spending cuts scheduled to take effect at year's end. Other Republicans say such a tactic seems to be working when it comes to a deal forcing up tax rates for the wealthy.

The two sides appear far apart on the issue, and Boehner is scheduled to return home to Ohio on Friday.

Hours before the meeting, Obama told reporters a deal is "still a work in progress," while he walked from the White House to a staff holiday party nearby. Asked about Boehner's assertion that he was waiting to hear more from the president, Obama said only, "Merry Christmas." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday, where he accused President Barack Obama of not being serious about cutting spending. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taxing issue

- There's increasing resignation within the Republican Party that Obama is going to prevail on the rate issue since the alternative is to allow taxes on all workers to go way up when tax cuts implemented during the George W. Bush presidency expire Dec. 31.

StatsCan. Household debt hits new record

Canadians are more in hock today than ever before, Statistics Canada said Thursday in releasing fresh data on household debt.

The new report shows household debt to annual disposable income reached a new high at 164.6 per cent, from 163.3 per cent the previous quarter.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has named rising household debt a key risk to the Canadian economy, but noted this week he was encouraged that credit growth appeared to be slowing.

Still, Carney has also said he expects the debt-to-income ratio to keep rising over the next couple of years. That is in part because of a lag in time between purchase decisions — such as a new home — and when the debt gets registered.

There was some good news in the report. The agency noted that the pace of growth in debt slowed during the period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Digging a deeper hole

- In the July-September period, households borrowed $27.3 billion, $18.4 billion of that in mortgages, while consumer credit levels increased by $7 billion to $474 billion.

Research in Motion

U.S. customs agency to launch BB10 pilot program

Research In Motion says the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency will launch a pilot program with its smartphones using the new operating system BlackBerry10, likely in January.

However, RIM has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients. BlackBerry smartphones were recently dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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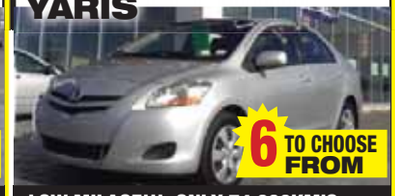

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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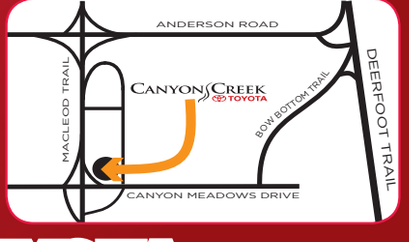

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Supreme Court sides with cable, satellite firms on fee system

The CRTC does not have power to make cable providers pay broadcasters for carrying their TV signals, says a decision handed down Thursday by the Supreme Court of Canada that one analyst said should be a win for consumers.

While the decision was hailed by one major cable company as a step forward for customers, broadcasters said the very survival of local TV is at stake.

The court ruled in a 5-4 decision that setting up such a system is not within the scope of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Telecom analyst Troy Crandall of MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier said that means consumers won't have to bear costs of a fee-for-carriage system. "It looks like a win for consumers right now because it's not going to have an immediate impact," said Crandall. If the court had agreed to allow traditional broadcasters to charge such fees, basic cable subscribers' bills would have gone up, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google hides porn under cyber mattress

Filtering furor. Change to SafeSearch settings means fewer saucy pics turn up in results

In a move that polarized online opinion, Google introduced a new algorithm Thursday that will produce fewer pornographic images on its image search.

The change took effect in the U.S. only, and hasn't yet been implemented in Canada.

Twitter was abuzz with the change, which seems to affect the U.K., U.S. and Canada, but not some European countries like Germany.

"Is Google Censuring Porn on Image Search, or Is Search Broken?" tweeted @Philbo as news of the new filter broke Thursday morning.

Most of the early tweets expressed dismay in what was perceived to be increased censorship.

"Don't be evil, Google? Then why does your new Google Images algorithm make it harder to find porn?" tweeted @omar_aok.

But some users saw an upside: "Good news for schools: Google image search gets safer," wrote @jeremypearson.

The new search results come after Google recently changed its SafeSearch settings. Instead of having three SafeSearch options (off, moderate and on), users now only have the option of turning an explicit-results filter on or off.

In a statement emailed to Torstar News Service, Google explained that the adult content isn't being censored, just that a user will have to search for it specifically.

"We use algorithms to select the most relevant results for a given query. If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query if your search terms are potentially ambiguous," the statement read.

"No filter is 100 per cent accurate, but SafeSearch should help you avoid most of this type of material," writes Google on its help site.

Twitter user ?@_WillieClark solemnly declared Thursday "the day the porn died."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Can you give us examples?

"If you're looking for adult content, you can find it without having to change the default setting — you just may need to be more explicit in your query."

Google statement

Take that, Apple — Google Maps makes a return

The new Google Maps application is shown in New York on Thursday. The world's most popular online mapping system has returned with the release of the Google Maps iPhone app. The release comes nearly three months after Apple Inc. replaced Google Maps — which was the iPhone's built-in navigation system — with its own map software. But Apple's maps proved to be far inferior, and the product's shoddiness prompted Apple CEO Tim Cook to issue a rare public apology. A Google Maps iPad app is in the works, but for now, iPad owners can use the maps in iPhone mode. That won't be the best experience, but still may be better than Apple's maps on the iPad. KARLY DOMB SADOF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cyberstalking. U.S. law would crack down on apps that track cellphone users

For about $50, a jealous wife or husband can download cellphone software that can track the whereabouts of a spouse better than any private detective. But in the United States, it soon might be illegal.

The Senate Judiciary Committee was expected on Thursday to approve a law closing a legal loophole that allows so-called cyberstalking apps to operate secretly on a cellphone and transmit the user's location without a person's knowledge.

Telephone companies are barred from disclosing to businesses the locations of people when they make a traditional phone call. But there's no such prohibition on the Internet, and the ambiguity has created a niche for companies such as Retina Software, which makes ePhoneTracker and describes it as "stealth phone spy software."

Retina Software says the program is for the lawful monitoring of a cellphone that the purchaser of the software owns and has a right to monitor. But supporters of the bill say there is no way to ensure the rules are followed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People will stalk

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MONKEY SEE, GOOSE BUMP, BEAR NO CAN DO

THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Pimpin' primate.** The week's top story involves a stylishly dressed monkey wandering cluelessly near a store, and eventually taken to live with a baboon. Wasn't that the premise for Jersey Shore?

2 **Call Me Maybe.** The robocall challenge went before Federal Court this week. Voters questioned the integrity of the election process, and political scientist Peter Russel said, "Canadian citizens don't want to be lied to in robocalls." He's right. Canadians are accustomed to politicians who lie to us in person, dammit!

3 **Diminishing returns.** Imagine waiting hours at a restaurant for a steak, and then being given two of them minutes before they close. You now have to consume massive quantities in a hurry, and while the first two bites are satisfying, the whole thing just ends up making you sick. Welcome to your condensed NHL season.

4 **Good for the goose.** The Canadian dollar rose slightly this week while American currency weakened when it was announced that the U.S. Federal Reserve would be printing additional money to buy up more bonds. I had a friend who used to do that but I haven't seen him in years.

5 **Single mother.** An 11-year-old female polar bear at the Toronto Zoo, who last year rejected three of her own cubs, gave birth to three more on Dec. 6. One died shortly after birth, and the others died on Sunday. The zoo is unclear about how these last two died, and they are investigating. Now, I'm no social worker, but maybe she's just not ready for motherhood?

6 **Ask Men?** Jennifer Lawrence, the 22-year-old star of The Hunger Games, has been named the "most desirable woman" of the year in an annual AskMen.com poll based on several criteria including sex appeal, talent, sense of humour and professional success, although the latter three are only ever seen by women.

7 **Li-Lo litigation.** I was going to provide an update on Lindsay Lohan's court case but then I had a dream in which she hit me with her Porsche, punched me in the face, stole my watch and made me watch Liz & Dick. I woke up in a cold sweat, screaming, "No mas Lindsay! Please! No mas!"

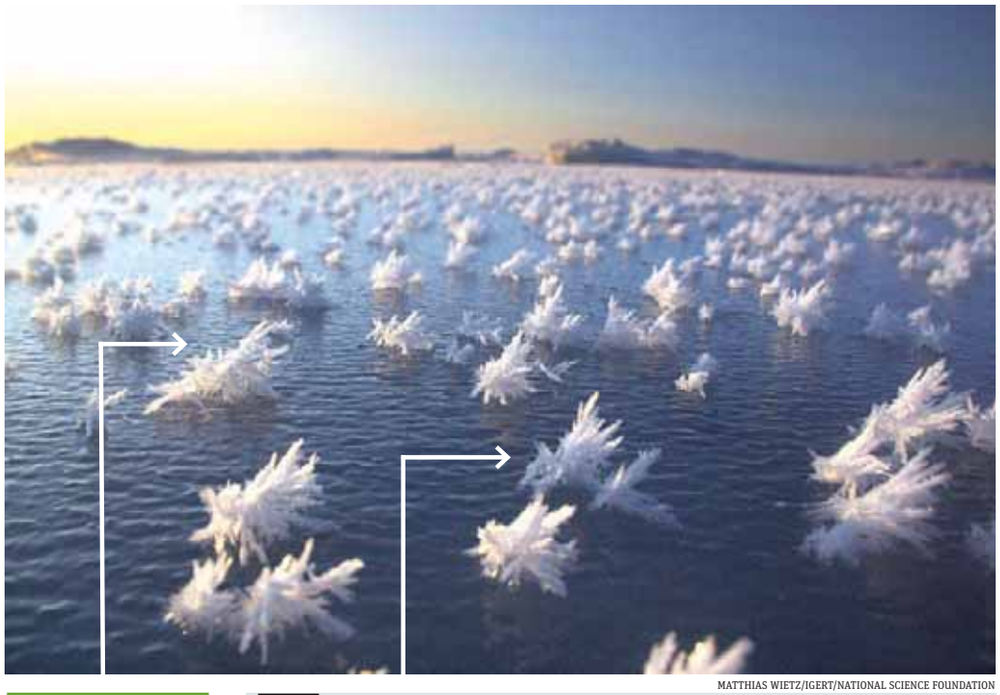
8 **Dalton McGuinty.** Pardon me. What I was going to say about Ontario's premier may already have been said in No. 2 above. Or was it No. 1? Take your pick.

9 **RIP.** We lost two outstanding international artists this week. The first was Jenni Rivera, a huge star in the Latin world, whose life and career were cut short in a plane crash at age 43. The second was Ravi Shankar, 92, whose work with the Beatles made him the best-known contemporary Indian musician of our time. Gen Y may only know him as Norah Jones' dad (and we thank him for that), but his impact on music is unparalleled in many ways. Thankfully, both of these artists left their music for us to cherish. Rock 'n' roll heaven awaits.

Happy Holidays to all.

Golden girl: The Hunger Games' Jennifer Lawrence was named AskMen.com's "most desirable woman" of the year. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Blooming cold in the Arctic



MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

In the garden of freezin'

Chilly air creates a sea of flowers at the North Pole

Some (flowers) like it hot, but others like these in the North Pole prefer it very cold. Frost flowers, a natural phenomenon where frost grows amid an extremely cold atmosphere on top of warmer water, form unusual floral structures that host micro-organisms. Oceanographer Jeff Bowman spoke to Metro about his research.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Q&A

Like frost, but in 3-D

Jeff Bowman at work in the Arctic Ocean. MATTHIAS WIETZ/IGERT/NSF

How are these frost flowers formed?
They grow on new ice with open cracks. The extremely cold air (below -8 C) becomes saturated, and frost starts to form on the ice's imperfections. Then feathery structures begin to grow out of the cracks, and incorporate marine salt and micro-organisms like algae. They are no different to frost formations, but only in 3-D.

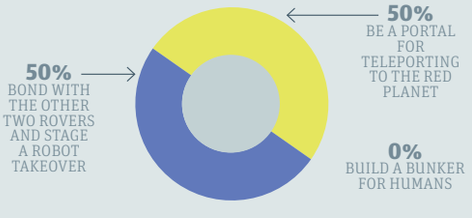
What is the significance of these ethereal structures?
Chemical reactions in the flowers produce compounds that help form clouds. This low cloud cover can alter the local climate — by reflecting sunlight back into space — and thus make the region colder. In addition, frost flowers can potentially release aerosols, which can lead to ozone depletion. But so far this is nothing more than speculation.

What was your first reaction when you saw these?
They are stunning and so ubiquitous, you can see them for kilometres. They form very abruptly, within only a few hours. I recall one expedition to the North Pole: When the fog cleared, the entire icescape was covered as far as the eye could see by these bizarre yet beautiful shapes.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

NASA is planning to send another rover to Mars. What should be its mission?



Twitter

@underflux: There's a special place in hell for people who don't take off their backpacks on crowded trains/busses. #yyc

@heymannyg: Spotted on a radio billboard: "Calgary's Most Rhianna". That right there is why I don't listen to that radio station. #yyc

@jameswilt: It's amusing that people don't believe the "Out of Service" sticker on C-Train doors until they push the button at least once. #yyc

@somebythesea: Goodbye Vancouver. Hello real winter. #yyc

@eawilsonca: Taking an extended lunch hour just to ride the new LRT line with a couple friends - such hipsters we seemed to be becoming. #yyctransit

metro
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The Hobbit is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

High-def hobbits?

Too much tech. The tale of the beginning of Lord of the Rings is overshadowed by 48 frames per second

Richard: Ned, as much as the story and performances, people will be talking about the presentation of the movie. Shot and projected at 48 frames a second — twice the industry standard — the picture is so vivid, so pristine, it doesn't really look like a movie. Combine that with the 3D and it's like watching mega high-definition. Every goblin wart and troll blemish is distinct enough to give dermatologists everywhere nightmares. What did you think of the mega-super-hi-definition look?

Ned: I have to say, the 48 frames per second was a problem for me. It often looked somewhere between a super-high definition 1980s BBC miniseries and a video game, and it just felt utterly un-cinematic. Saying that it doesn't really look like a movie hits the nail on the head. Christopher Nolan has harped on in the past about film having a "warmth" that video can't replicate, and I think I see what he means here. But the biggest crime, I think, is that the sweeping shots of the New Zealand landscape looked fake.

RC: Perhaps it's like the difference between vinyl or CD. I prefer the warm sound of old-school vinyl to the hard digital preproduction of CD. The pops and skips are part of the experience, just as film blur and grain are a part of watching 35 mm projected on the big screen. Having said that, Gollum is awesome at 48 frames a second. The extended scene (for the record, most of the scenes in the film could be called extended), in which Bilbo and Gollum meet and trade riddles is one of the highlights of the film thanks to Serkis' astounding motion capture performance.

NE: That scene is the true highlight of the film, and it coincidentally is where Martin Freeman, as the younger Bilbo, really shines as well. But even with this standout, Peter Jackson and company manage to spoil it (for me at least) by overdoing Gollum's last line to beat the viewer over the head with another reminder that all this leads to the Lord of the Rings. It's a bad habit running through the film that grows tedious. Elijah Wood's cameo is particularly clumsy in this regard, with him basically describing what he's going to do in his first scene in Fellowship of the Ring and then running off to do it.

RC: It may be clumsy, but I think fans of the series will revel at the chance of revisiting the characters!

NE: Well, they'll have plenty of chances. If you like this one, the good news is it's just the first of three movies.

Synopsis

The prequel to the immensely popular Lord of the Rings films is a coming-of-age story for Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a stay-at-home hobbit from Bag End, in Hobbiton in the Shire. He's content with his quiet life until Gandalf (Ian McKellen), a wizard, recruits him to help a group of 13 dwarves in their quest to reclaim their former home, the Lonely Mountain, and its treasure from the dragon Smaug.

- **Richard:** ●●●○○
- **Ned:** ●●●○○

Barbra Streisand shares her secrets

The Guilt Trip. Multi-talented entertainer dishes about the film industry, Seth Rogen and getting scripts

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Barbra Streisand is many things — an acclaimed actress, singer, director and writer, political activist and philanthropist — but most of all she's a woman not afraid to speak her mind. So what wisdom did Streisand have to impart while promoting the Guilt Trip?

The secret to her success is staying home
"I don't make that many movies and I don't make that many appearances," she says. "That's it. Less is more. And maybe that keeps a little mystery or something. I like to stay home a lot."

She doesn't like where the film industry has been going
"It's not the same as when I last made a film. They're not interested in love stories or any movie that's over $15 million. But it could be $100 million, that's OK. Two hundred million is OK to lose," she laughs. "But movies that I'm used to making or liking, that draw me, they're movies that cost $18 million, $20 million, and they're not interested in those movies. It's a different time."

She doesn't actually get sent that many scripts to consider
"I don't. You see, everybody gets like that. 'She must get so many scripts, why would I send it to her? She'll never get a chance to read it,'" Streisand laments. "Meanwhile I'll go, 'Where are the scripts?'"

Getting her to do The Guilt Trip required an actual guilt trip from director Anne Fletcher
"I remember … I said to Anne, 'Would you make the movie without me?' And she said no," Streisand recalls. "I felt bad, guilty. I said, 'Oh no, she's not going to have this job.'"

While co-star Seth Rogen asked around about what working with Streisand would be like, she wasn't able to do any similar research.
"Seth, it turns out, sussed me out," she says. "He called people from the Focker movies. I didn't know who to call. I don't know any of those people from his movies, so what was I going to do?"

The Guilt Trip opens next Friday. HANDOUT

What's next in the Broadway to big screen adaptations?

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

With Les Misérables hitting theatres Christmas Day, it'll mark just the latest Broadway hit to be brought to the big-screen. While fans must wait a little longer before checking out the adaptation, we wanted to examine other Broadway classics that have yet to be converted into cinematic gold.

The Book of Mormon
Conceived by funnymen Trey Parker and Matt Stone, The Book of Mormon isn't just the 2011 Tony Award champion; it's an unlikely hit musical about missionaries in war-torn Uganda that mixes satire and song the way only the creators of TV's South Park can do.
Status: Although the comic duo announced eventual plans for a film version, Parker admitted they're in no rush, telling Movieline, "We'd have to really rethink it."

Avenue Q
Debuting from an experimental play in 2003, this Sesame-Street-for-adults show featuring politically-incorrect (and sometimes nude!) puppets struggling in Manhattan could amp it up even more for the big screen.

Status: There have been rumours but no serious plans are in the works for a big-screen version. May I suggest someone call Jason Segel?

Jersey Boys
This musical biography may have debuted in San Diego but the story of 1960s singing group the Four Seasons has become one of Broadway's biggest box-office draws.

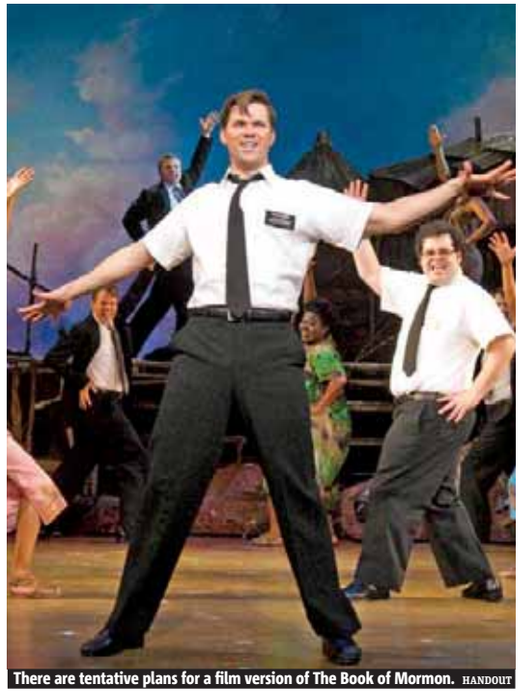
Status: Floating around Hollywood for years, Jersey Boys was to begin production in January (with Iron Man's Jon Favreau directing) until Warner Brothers' recently yanked the project. And so we wait.

Wicked
One of Broadway's longest running shows, Wicked visits the story of the Wizard of Oz from the witches' point of view. Having repeatedly broken box-office records since its 2003 debut, Tinseltown has taken notice.

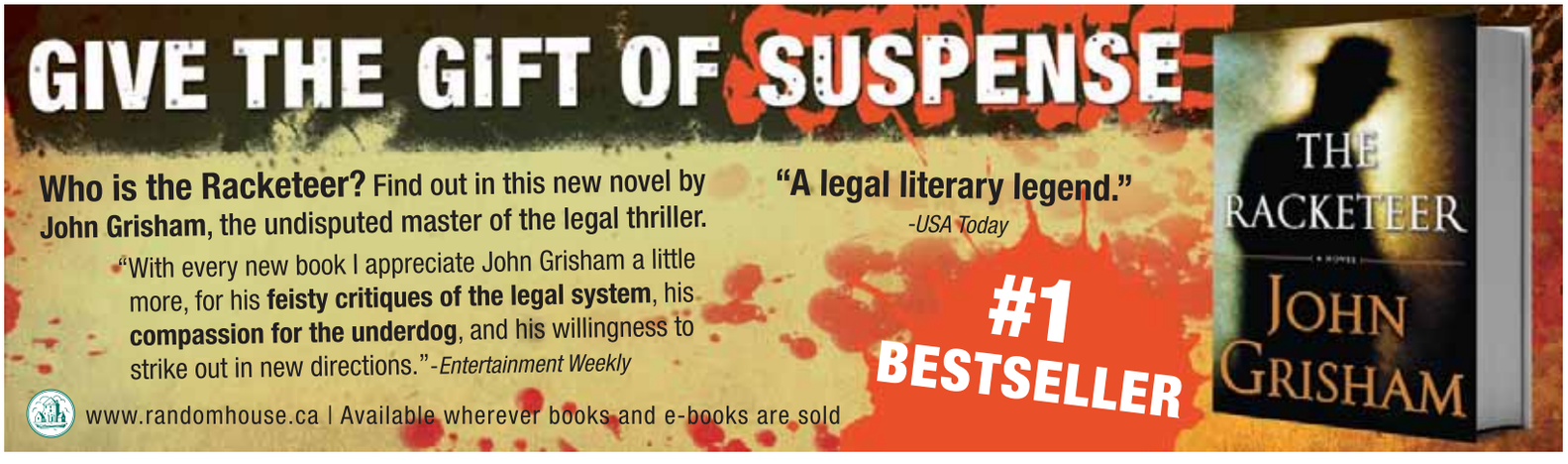
Status: Under the direction of Oscar-nominated filmmaker Stephen Daldry (Billy Elliot), Wicked is likely to be the next movie musical — with a tentative release date set for 2014.

Spider Man: Turn off the Dark
Plagued with delays, budget overruns and injuries, this hugely expensive rock musical about Marvel Comics' most iconic character is paying off on Broadway. Could a superhero musical featuring songs by U2's Bono breakout on the big-screen?

Status: With the sequel to The Amazing Spider-Man hitting theatres in 2014, its unlikely Hollywood will compete against itself with a musical version anytime soon.



There are tentative plans for a film version of The Book of Mormon. HANDOUT



THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 14 TO THURS., DEC. 20. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:35-6:40-9:15
The Bourne Legacy (14A) Fri-Thu 3:25-9:05
Brave (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-6:45
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:25-8:10
Frankenweenie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:55-7:05
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:20
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:15
Ice Age: Continental Drift (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7
Looper (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:55-9:25
The Man With the Iron Fists (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:25-9:40
Seven Psychopaths (18A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Sinister (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:10-9:25
Ted (18A) Fri-Thu 9:20

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The Guilt Trip (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1-3:20-5:40-8:05-10:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-1:30-2:30-5:15-6:15-9-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-2:15-5:15-6-9-9:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Fri 12:30-3-4:15-6:45-8-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:15-12:30-3-4:15-6:45-8-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:30-3-4:15-6:45-8-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-2:45-4:15-6:30-8-10:10
Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:05-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:10-10 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:10-10
Lincoln (PG) Fri 12-3:10-6:25-9:40 Sat 3:10-6:25-9:40 Sun 12-3:10-6:25-9:40 Mon-Tue 1:30-5-8:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 10:55
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 2-4:20-6:40-9
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Thu 7:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Sun 12-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:55-7:30-10:05
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:05 Mon-Tue 2:20 Wed-Thu 2:20-4:40-7-9:25
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:20-4:45-7:15-9:35 Mon-Tue 4:40-7:05-9:25
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-6:55-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:10-4-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:50
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:25-6:35-9:50 Mon-Tue 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:35-7:35-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:55-4:35-7:35-10:25
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Wed 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Thu 2:35-5:10-10:20

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Hitchcock (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) No Passes Fri 7:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:45-7:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Fri 5-9 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-5-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-9:10
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 7:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
Lincoln (PG) Fri 5:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 2-5:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:40-9
Skyfall (14A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6-9:20

Empire Studio 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

(STC) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2:50-6:15-9:30
The Guilt Trip (STC) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 4:05-7:20-9:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-8:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12-1-4-5-8-9 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4-5-8-9
Khiladi 786 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2:55-6-9:10
Life of Pi (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:25
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:25-6:40-9:35
Lincoln (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-6:45-10:05 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:35-6:45-10:05
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 3:15-7-9:25
Playing for Keeps (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:45-10:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:20-7:45-10:15
Rise of the Guardians (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:05
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:40-6:55-9:25
Skyfall (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:05-12:40-3:20-4:45-6:30-8:15-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Tue 3:20-4:45-6:30-8:15-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:45-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:45-10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:45-10
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:10
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 3:55-7:10-9:40

Empire Studio 10 MacLeod Trail 100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

The Guilt Trip (STC) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:30-3:30-7:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2-4-6:15-8-10:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:45-9:30
Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15-6:50-10:10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:45
Rise of the Guardians (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:15-7:10-10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 4:15-7:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 4:15-7:10-10
Skyfall (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:45-12:15-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-9:50-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Mon 11:45-12:15-3:10-3:40-7-9:50-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Tue 11:45-12:15-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-9:50-10:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:15-3:40-7-10:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:30 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 3:10-9:50 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 11:45-3:10-6:30-9:50
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:45

Globe Cinema 617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Deadfall (18A) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Monty Python and the Holy Grail (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:20-7 Mon-Thu 7
Monty Python's Life of Brian (14A) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 3:20-9 Mon-Thu 9
Seven Psychopaths (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Anna Karenina (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:15 Mon-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:10 Thu 1:20-4:20-10:10
Batman Returns (STC) Mon 7:30
The Guilt Trip (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:35
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-2-4:55-5:45-8:35-9:30 No Passes Mon 12-2-3:45-5:45-7:30-9:30 No Passes Tue 12-2-3:45-5:45-8:35-9:30 No Passes Wed 12-2-3:45-5:45-7:30-9:30 No Passes Thu 12-2-4:55-5:45-8:35-9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:20-3-6:45-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-4:20-8
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Fri 12-2:45-3:45-6:30-7:30-10:15-11:15 No Passes Sat 11-12-2:45-3:45-6:30-7:30-10:15-11:15 No Passes Sun 11-12-2:45-3:45-6:30-7:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:15-2:30-5-6:15-8:45-10 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 3-6:45-10:25
Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4-6:55-9:45 Mon 1:20-4-10:20 Tue 1:20-4-6:55-9:45
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:25 Thu 12:30-3:50-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 10:55
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:35-10
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Thu 7:30
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:35 Sat 4:05-6:55-9:35 Sun 1:30-9:35 Mon 1:30-4:05-10 Tue 1:30-4:05-6:55-9:35
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:40-8:10-10:35
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-5:20-8:10-10:55
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:30-10:50 Mon 12:30-3:35-7:30-10:50 Tue 1-4:10-7:30-10:50 Wed 12:30-3:40-6:30-10:50 Thu 12:30-3:40-7:30-10:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-5-7:50-10:40
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 12:05-2:40 Sat 11:30-12:05-2:40 Sun-Tue 12:05-2:40 Wed 12:05-2:40-10:40 Thu 12:05-2:40-5:15-8-10:40
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Tue 5:15-8-10:40
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 6

Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Arbitrage (14A) Sat 5 Sun 5-9 Mon-Wed 8:45
No Films Showing Today (STC) Thu
Searching for Sugar Man (PG) Fri 7 Sat 3-7 Sun 3

Sunridge Spectrum 2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

(STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
The Guilt Trip (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:35-3:10-7:15-10:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 2-5:50-9:30 No Passes Sun 12-1:15-2-3:45-5-5:50-7:30-8:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:15-5-8:45 No Passes Fri-Sat 12-1:15-3:45-5-7:30-8:45-11:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-2-4:15-5:45-8-9:30
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Jingle All the Way (STC) Sat 11
Khiladi 786 (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-8
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:10-7:15-10:15 Sun 12:35-3:10-10:15 Mon-Tue 12:35-3:10-7:15-10:15
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:50 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:40-9:45
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Wed-Thu 12:15-3:45-7-9:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:30-10:10 Wed 1-4-10:10 Thu 1-4-7:30-10:10
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Mon-Thu 12:20
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The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-7:15-10:05
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Tue 1:15
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Sat 4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun 4:20-7:10 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:10-9:55
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 6

Westhills 10 165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-2:30-5-6:15-8:45-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-7-8:50
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 2-3-5:45-6:40-9:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:50-7:30-8:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Aida Live (STC) Sat 10:55
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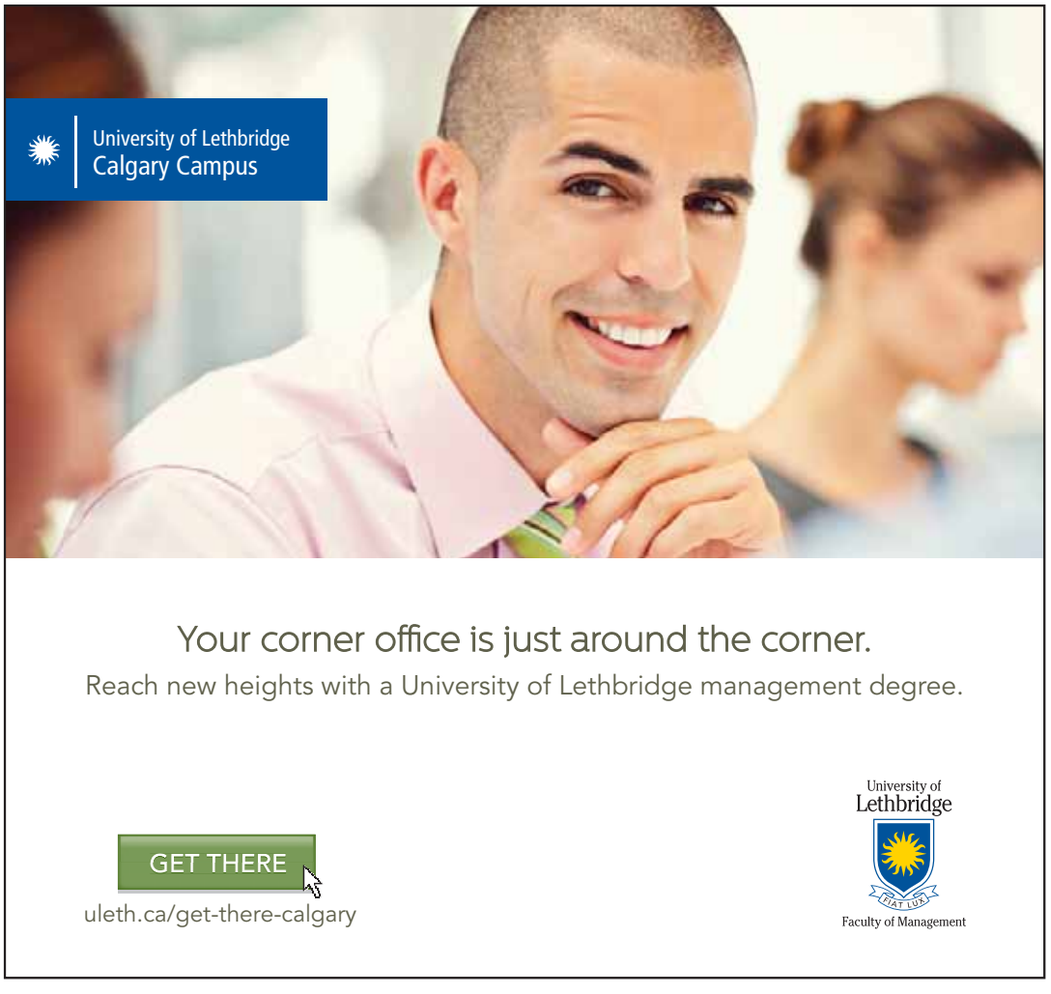
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50



The Hollywood Foreign Press shows its love for Honest Abe

Golden Globe noms. Lincoln grabs seven nods, while in TV, Homeland and Downton Abbey come out as favourites

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Steven Spielberg's Lincoln leads this year's Golden Globe Awards nominations, placing in seven categories including best drama, with nods for Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner as well as actors Daniel Day-Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Field, and composer John Williams.

Other favourites for the Hollywood Foreign Press include Ben Affleck's Argo, Kathryn Bigelow's Zero Dark Thirty and Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, all of which received best drama and best director nods, as well as other nominations.

On the television side, new series Nashville, Smash and the Newsroom earned accolades, while longtime awards favourite Mad Men failed to make the best television drama list for the first time. Critical favourites Homeland and Downton Abbey earned four and three nominations each, respectively, and are expected to be favourites when the awards are handed out.

Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, starring Christoph Waltz and Jaime Foxx, grabbed a number of nominations. HANDOUT

Biggest surprises

The Hollywood Foreign Press clearly has a thing for Nicole Kidman, nominating the actress in both film and TV categories. Her nod for Lee Daniels' The Paperboy may be the most controversial this year, as the film was widely panned coming out of the Cannes Film Festival. Also a surprise? Multiple nominations for Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, an early 2012 film with little to know awards campaign. Stars Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt earned acting nods while the film made the best musical or comedy list.

Biggest snubs

While Tom Hooper's presumed awards season juggernaut Les Miserables earned nods for best musical or comedy, plus best actor Hugh Jackman and supporting actress Anne Hathaway, Hooper himself didn't make the best director list. And despite turning in great performances in multiple films, Matthew McConaughey came up empty handed at the HFPA. Other notable snubs include Robert DeNiro for Silver Linings Playbook — though best supporting actor is the tightest race this year — and indie darling Beasts of the Southern Wild, which didn't receive a single nomination.

The 70th annual Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live January 13, hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who are nominated against each other in the best actress in a television comedy category.

Some of the nominations

- **Best motion picture — drama.** Argo, Django Unchained, Life of Pi, Lincoln, Zero Dark Thirty
- **Best motion picture — musical or comedy.** Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Les Miserables, Moonrise Kingdom, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, Silver Linings Playbook
- **Best director.** Ben Affleck, Argo; Kathryn Bigelow, Zero Dark Thirty; Ang Lee, Life of Pi; Steven Spielberg, Lincoln; Quentin Tarantino, Django Unchained
- **Best actor, motion picture drama.** Daniel Day-Lewis, Lincoln; Richard Gere, Arbitrage; John Hawkes, The Sessions; Joaquin Phoenix, The Master; Denzel Washington, Flight
- **Best actress, motion picture drama.** Marion Cotillard, Rust and Bone; Jessica Chastain, Zero Dark Thirty; Helen Mirren, Hitchcock; Naomi Watts, The Impossible; Rachel Weisz, The Deep Blue Sea
- **Best actor, motion picture musical or comedy.** Jack Black, Bernie; Bradley Cooper, Silver Linings Playbook; Hugh Jackman, Les Miserables; Ewan McGregor, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen; Bill Murray, High Park on Hudson
- **Best drama series.** Breaking Bad, Boardwalk Empire, Downton Abbey, Homeland, The Newsroom
- **Best comedy series.** The Big Bang Theory, Episodes, Girls, Modern Family, Smash

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Band of Horses has released their fourth album, Mirage Rock, to critical acclaim. HANDOUT

Band of Horses leaves behind Infinite to slip into a Mirage (of) Rock

New album. For fourth album, country rock group adds pedigreed producer to its high standard of vocal harmonies

LINDA LABAN
Metro World News

After a sprawling opus like 2011's Infinite Arms, Band of Horses wanted to try a more simple approach. So for the South-Carolina-based rockers' fourth album, Mirage Rock, they cut out all the fuss of digital recording, and brought in seasoned rock vet Glyn Johns to produce.

"Because the last album was so painful, in a way," starts singer Ben Bridwell, before clarifying, "well, painfully long at least, it made sense to try and do something simple."

Bridwell now has a seasoned crew behind him, because this lineup solidified before recording Infinite Arms.

It's electric ... or it's not

Band of Horses pulled double-duty recently in New York, playing an acoustic show and an electric one, both on the same day.

- **Quote.** "We've gotten used to doing promo stuff where we go to a record store and play and then go do a proper show," says Bridwell. "We're used to packing it in. But I'm not sure that we have ever done two proper shows like this. The original idea was to try and make something interesting happen in New York."

The result is a dusky country rock set buoyed by airtight vocal harmonies, and the process of recording went more quickly than its predecessor.

"Once Glyn seemed interested, well, his method of recording strictly analog and live just seemed to take a lot of the guess work out of things."

Having a reputation for creating rock landmarks didn't hurt: Johns has produced records for The Rolling Stones, The Who and The Eagles.

"His incredible pedigree, the incredible albums that he's produced, that was obviously really enticing," Bridwell agrees. "But the method itself seemed like an obvious direction to go in after the last one was so over-thought. It was nice to have an extra set of ears and also just a completely different perspective, him coming from a different era of music in general."

Forget about that Jingle Bell Rock

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of the same old Christmas songs? Here are two brand new tracks

1 Burn the Flames/Mark Lanegan

The former Screaming Trees frontman has a lo-fi solo EP entitled Dark Mark Does Christmas. Correct on all counts.

2 Angels Without Wings/The Mahones

A fun Christmas song from the new album, Angels & Devils. Good for singing at the pub after a few pints.

Songs take spotlight in TV drama Nashville as stars step up to the mic

Australian actress and singer Clare Bowen, who stars as Scarlett O'Connor in the ABC drama series Nashville, sings her own songs.
DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABC drama. Tunes on Music City show has sold more than 800,000 digital singles

Buddy Miller says these days it's not unusual for duet partners to cut their love songs syllable by syllable while never even seeing each other: "In this town especially that's what happens."

That's why the veteran Music City producer and band leader was so astounded by what he witnessed in the early days of working on the music for the television show Nashville. He was nervous about his session with actors Clare Bowen and Sam Palladio because their song If I Didn't Know Better, written by John Paul White of The Civil Wars and Arum Rae, was challenging and served as a pivotal moment in the pilot. It had to be right, and that depended on the young actors being able to pull it off.

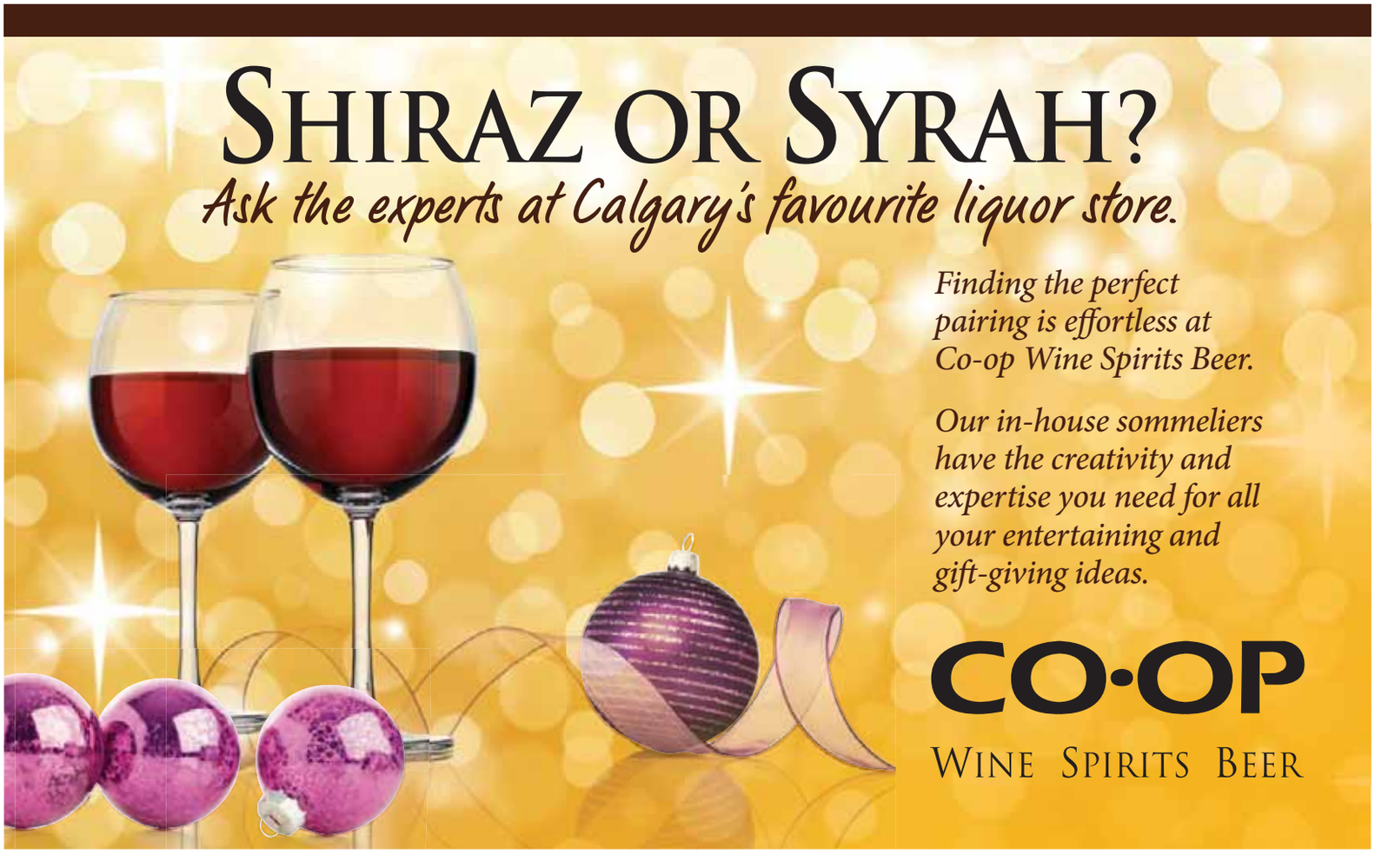
"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song or look each other in the eyes when you're singing a love song," Miller said. "For those two who'd never sung in a studio before to go in there, look each other in the eyes with the song memorized and sing the song, I had goose bumps and so did everybody else in the room. ... That had a whole lot more soul in it than most of the stuff that gets cut in this town."

The music of Nashville has been as much a star on the hour-long ABC drama as Connie Britton, Hayden Panettiere, Charles Esten, Jonathan Jackson, Bowen and Palladio. Yes, each really does sing his or her own part, and so far fans seem to be responding, buying more than 800,000 digital singles. Panettiere's Telescope has even cracked top 40 at country radio.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"They didn't know they didn't have to memorize the song."
Buddy Miller



Movie tells real-life rescue of horses from B.C. mountain

The Horses of McBride. Snowmobilers worked tirelessly for four days to save the animals

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

The Horses of McBride airs Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. ET/PT on CTV. HANDOUT

Just before Christmas in 2008, Toni Jeck was faced with a tough decision. Armed with some hay and a shotgun, she was tasked with deciding the fate of two starving horses her snowmobiling brother had found trapped in two-metre deep snow on the side of Mount Renshaw, near McBride, B.C.

Despite finding the horses covered in bald patches and severely underweight, Jeck was convinced they could survive, if only she could get them off the mountain.

What followed was a four-day ordeal that warmed the hearts of Canadians as they watched a group of snowmobilers dig a trench more than a kilometre long, in minus 30 degree Celsius temperatures to free the horses, who — it was later discovered — had been abandoned there in the fall by a man on a hunting trip.

The story of the snowmobilers who could and the horses with the will to survive wasn't forgotten.

On Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. (ET/PT), CTV presents The Horses of McBride, starring Aidan Quinn, a TV movie based on the events of four years ago.

Actress Mackenzie Porter, who portrays Jeck in the movie, says she has trouble wrapping her head around the strength and willpower it must have taken to keep digging in sub-zero temperatures.

"I can't imagine it. Just the little amount of work we were doing to portray this story on film was exhausting. And I experienced nothing compared to what the Jeck family actually experienced," she says.

Filming for The Horses of McBride took place in the Kananaskis Valley, which mimicked some of the deep snow conditions the real rescuers faced. "I did a lot of shoveling, luckily I only had to do it when the camera was rolling" says Porter, laughing. "I got an amazing workout."

While the shoveling may have been tough for Porter, the work with the horses came naturally to the actress, who grew up on a ranch near Medicine Hat, Alta., and rode with her sister and dad.

Aside from horsemanship skills, Porter was also able to exercise her acting abilities alongside seasoned veteran Quinn, whose past films include Legends of the Fall.

"I'm a huge fan of his so I was excited when I heard he was on board for this film. He was just really grounded," she says. "The first day I met him he invited me to dinner to rehearse and just build that relationship with him. He's just this amazing person."

Rescued

Horses healthy and happy

The real horses — Belle and Sundance — are now healthy and happy living in adoptive homes. As such, the film crew had to find two equines that looked starving and unhealthy. Enter Lady and Slim, two emaciated horses from Alberta and British Columbia. As the filming went on, the wranglers involved were able to put weight back on these horses. Eventually, Lady was adopted by a couple who worked on the film, while Slim, once at a healthier weight, was returned to his original owner.

Vancouver-born actress plays 'feisty, sexy and disarming' role in Motive

Kristin Lehman.
Procedural drama is told from the perspective of the killer and victim

STEPHEN ERAMO
scene@metronews.ca

Kristin Lehman is taking on the lead role in Motive. HANDOUT

She recently portrayed Gwen Eaton, a campaign adviser with a bone to pick with her secret lover in the critically lauded murder mystery The Killing. Now, Vancouver-born actress Kristin Lehman is taking on the lead role in CTV's new police procedural drama Motive.

Described as "feisty, sexy and disarming," her character of Angie Flynn is a divorced single mom and homicide detective who investigates cases that are told from the perspective of the killer as well as victim. This particular job came along at the ideal time for Lehman.

"I was very lucky to have done The Killing, and when we wrapped last April, I wanted to do more equally creatively satisfying work," notes the actress. "I also wanted to stay in Vancouver, largely because my little boy is in pre-school here and we really built our family's life around being in town for the series.

"So when I heard that Motive was a CTV show I was really excited about the possibility of doing another Canadian series. Then I read the material and fell in love with it. So I auditioned and, like every audition, I was convinced it wasn't what they [the producers] wanted," she jokes, "but happily it was what they wanted and here I am."

Despite being very different from her character, the actress felt an immediate bond with Angie.

"It's just an absolute delight to step into her shoes," says Lehman. "Angie 'lives' in me quite naturally, and thanks to our writers I get to delve into the complexities of what it must be like to have such a difficult job as well as be impulsive, instinctive, say what you feel and make mistakes."

At the time of this interview, Lehman and the rest of the Motive cast and crew were slightly over halfway through filming the show's first season.

"Aidan Devine guest-stars in this episode and he is an acting powerhouse," praises the actress. "I suppose I'm enjoying this one, in particular, because Angie has a really strong connection with the main protagonist. She decides to go against her superiors' wishes and follow her own hunches, so Aidan and I have gone toe-to-toe with some pretty intense and heavy scenes.

"At the end of the day you feel proud of all the effort you've put in as well as having worked opposite and shared a lot of mutual respect with another actor who processes the same way you do."

TV picks

All the Christmas specials you can handle: This week's TV picks

Back-to-back holiday specials Friday on Global start with Hoops & Yoyo Ruin Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Hoops, Yoyo and their friend, Piddles, disrupt the time-space continuum after sneaking into Santa's sleigh. Then, The Elf on the Shelf: An Elf's Story centres on an elf named Chippey who tries to help a young boy who is struggling to believe in the magic of Christmas. **(Global)**

Christmas movie classics abound on the dial Friday, with the Bing Crosby-Danny Kaye musical White Christmas sure to put you in a festive mood over on AMC. The 1954 feel-good romp is chock full of everything magical about the season: a winter wonderland, infectious tunes and a bit of romance. Over on CBC, there's Miracle on 34th Street for anyone doubting Santa's existence. An adwoman's lawyer boyfriend tries to prove that Macy's Santa Claus is the real thing.

Comic veteran Martin Short drops by his old New York stomping grounds when he hosts Saturday Night Live. The musical performer is no slouch by the way; it's music icon Sir Paul McCartney. **(Global, NBC)**

Two animated classics abound with seasonal cheer and a little magic to inspire holiday grinches on Saturday. Tykes both naughty and nice would do well to tune into Santa Claus is Comin' To Town over on CTV, where a mailman explains why Santa has whiskers, lives at the North Pole and brings presents once a year. Meanwhile, The Legend of Frosty the Snowman unfolds over on YTV, where a new chapter in the saga revisits Frosty many years after he shouts out his first "Happy Birthday!" **(YTV)**

And then you have National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation on Sunday. By turns cheesy, garish and grating, it's also sweetly sentimental and a fun guilty pleasure. Who doesn't find Christmas light electrocutions hilarious? As head of the Griswold family, Chevy Chase offers plenty of pratfalls while Randy Quaid co-stars as a dickey-wearing country cousin with a little too much holiday spirit. **(CBC)**

THE CANADIAN PRESS

8 Outstanding TV shows of 2012

What was TV like in 2012? As with every year, it was a mix of the ridiculous and the sublime, the sacred and the profane. Excellence persevered with series such as HBO's Boardwalk Empire and Treme, AMC's Mad Men and, of course, AMC's The Walking Dead with its icky charm. Bottom line: It's not easy to narrow down a Top 8 anything for TV. Still, once this year's thousands of hours are assessed, some notable achievements emerge, for better or worse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Breaking Bad

It's notable not only for how twisted, funny and shocking it is, but also for how it keeps on upping the ante. This summer's satisfying mini season ended in a most unlikely fashion, hinting that Walter White (series star Bryan Cranston) might actually break free from his life of spiraling disaster and resurrect his happy home. But then, in the last scene, Walter's drug-enforcement-agent brother-in-law made the connection that had always eluded him: The drug lord he's been chasing all this time is Walter! Once again, the series' never-broken promise was upheld.

2 Fox & Friends

We could easily salute shows that keep us laughing like The Daily Show With Jon Stewart, The Colbert Report, Saturday Night Live and Real Time with Bill Maher. But maybe we could more appropriately single out one obvious wellspring for those shows' humour. I'm referring, of course, to Fox & Friends. With their three-part harmony, co-hosts Steve Doocy, Gretchen Carlson and Brian Kilmeade offer up a unique brand of jovially partisan delivery. Theirs is a seamless, finish-one-another's-sentence knack for issuing the network-designated messages as news. Contrary viewpoints are admissible only to be mocked. But mostly cheerful unity prevails, a tidy single-minded package of riffs as predictable as the tides — but as amusing as any deliberate caricature. Let's give credit where it's due: These Friends cry out to be spoofed.

3 Girls

Lena Dunham this, Lena Dunham that. Blah, blah, blah. She, in her mid-20s, created, wrote, directed, produced and starred in a half-hour comedy series about 20-something adulthood, femininity and sexuality. She sparked adulation, conversation, arguments and green-eyed envy of her talent. Girls was a series that couldn't be ignored — at least, by pop-culture cognoscenti. It will surely be welcomed back in January with even more attention, if possible (with always the threat of a backlash), as viewers resume arguing: Does the series measure up to all the hype? Nuff said. Up to now, indisputably, Girls has been monumental. And a gas.

4 Here Comes Honey Boo Boo and Killer Karaoke

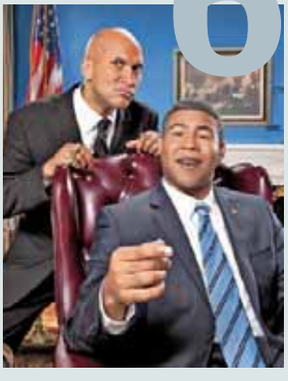
Two new reality shows blazed new trails of idiocy. One capitalized on redneck stereotypes and a six-year-old beauty pageant veteran. The other invited contestants to sing their hearts out while being zapped with electricity or dunked in a vat of snakes. In a TV universe swamped with reality shows, these two stood apart as groundbreaking, inspired and dismaying — if for no other reason than they served as a reminder that each is merely a way station en route to the next extreme in outrageous crassness.

5 Smash

This NBC musical drama put a bright, sexy sheen on one of filmdom's most timeless tropes: Hey, kids, let's put on a show! Which Smash did, embedding songs and dance into the story of how a Broadway musical comes to life. Sure, Smash took knocks for unbelievable plotlines, cardboard characters and trite show tunes. It gave new life to the term "hate-watch" (that act of watching something solely to delight in its awfulness). So what? With a show-must-go-on defiance emblematic of Broadway, Smash never flagged in its unique charm and meticulous artistry. And if anything about it seemed over-the-top, its naysayers should consider the recent cockamamie real-life fraud that sank the Broadway musical Rebecca.

6 Key & Peele

The biracial status of comedy partners Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele (black fathers, white mothers) is notable only because it gives them unique insight sizing up the human condition. And they made the most of that insight on their sketch-and-standup half-hour series. In particular, they scored with Peele in an unsurpassed impersonation of Obama where the unflappable president is joined by Key as "anger translator" Luther, who demonstrates, comically unfiltered, what Obama really thinks. But whatever they did, the humour of Key and Peele proved fresh and smart.



7 Sons of Anarchy

Tough guys on motorcycles selling guns and drugs. Tough women keeping them in line, or trying to. Rival gangs, corrupt cops and a club membership in turmoil. Jax (Charlie Hunnam), his mother, Gemma (Katey Sagal), and her husband, Clay (Ron Perlman), were the core of a series that, in its fifth season, raged wilder than ever. A family drama set in a hard-hitting workplace, Sons was bloodthirsty and brilliant like nothing else on TV. Its audience knew what its characters found out: there was no escaping its excitement.

8 Homeland

In its second season, this series remained suspenseful, disturbing and riddled with surprises. It mined drama from possibly the most damaged pair of protagonists, opponents and star-crossed lovers in TV history. Marine Sgt. Nicholas Brody (Damian Lewis) was a prisoner of war in Afghanistan who had returned home a national hero and soon-to-be-elected U.S. Congressman — and, covertly, a terrorist turncoat. Carrie Mathison (Claire Danes) was a former CIA agent suffering from a bipolar disorder as well as emotional ties to the man she was obsessed with bringing down. They could have titled this series Homeland Insecurity.

Bradley James stars as Camelot's now-king, Arthur, in the fifth of season Merlin. HANDOUT

Merlin's magic rooted in show's talented writers

Final season. The fantasy TV series based on Camelot's cast of characters balances intense scenes with a certain lightness

STEPHEN ERAMO
scene@metronews.ca

Merlin

When and where can I watch?

- **The show.** Merlin's new season airs on Space starting Jan. 2

Since arriving in Camelot, a young man named Merlin has secretly used his magical powers to not only help protect the legendary kingdom, but also unlock its many secrets. In doing so, our unsung hero discovered that he and Camelot's future king, Arthur, shared a common destiny. In the fifth and final season of the hit fantasy TV series Merlin, the now-King Arthur and his loyal servant Merlin are pitted against evil forces committed to destroying Camelot. Throughout it all, the one constant is their enduring friendship.

"When we first met Merlin, he was a young man and Arthur (Bradley James) was a young prince," says Colin Morgan, who plays Merlin. "In the past five seasons, my character has gone from being a poodle to an Irish wolfhound. It's been a big learning curve for him as well as Arthur. They've grown up together, both as characters and in their friendship. Merlin and Arthur are essentially complete opposites, but have to work side-by-side towards the same goal."

"With Merlin and Arthur, you can be in the middle of telling this full-blown opera given the intensity of their dilemma, and they can turn it into an operetta. I've always liked when the two of them are facing certain doom and they bring a lightness to the situation," adds Bradley James.

Merlin's two-part season five opener, called Arthur's Bane, is set three years after the year four finale and sees the return of the show's most beautiful and formidable adversary, Morgana, played by Katie McGrath.

"It's interesting because what they (the show's writers) did with Morgana in the time between seasons four and five really helped me with my performance because it moved my character on from where she was in the fourth season," says McGrath. "The fact that she had been directly persecuted for being magical sort of vindicated her feelings of anger towards Arthur. That reinforced Morgana's belief that she was doing the right thing in trying to remove him from the throne.

"So if it's possible, she is now more determined than before, and maybe a little bit crazy, too."

Looking ahead, what will Morgan miss most about Merlin?

"I think we all agree what we'll miss most will be the people," says the actor. "We had to do a lot of things bordering on the ridiculous to the emotionally charged, and without the support of everyone working on the show, that could have been very difficult, but it wasn't. It was a genuinely enjoyable experience."

2012 a diverse year for gamers

The video game universe in 2012 is a study in extremes. At one end, you have the old guard striving to produce mass-appeal blockbusters. At the other end, you have a thriving community of independent game developers scrambling to find an audience for their idiosyncratic visions. Can't we all just get along? Here are 10 games that managed to do both.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dishonored

Arkane Studios' revenge drama combined a witty plot, crisp gameplay and an uncommonly distinctive milieu.

Mass Effect 3

No 2012 game was more ambitious than BioWare's sweeping space opera. Yes, the ending was a little bumpy, but the fearless Commander Shepard's last journey across the cosmos provided dozens of thrilling moments.

The Walking Dead

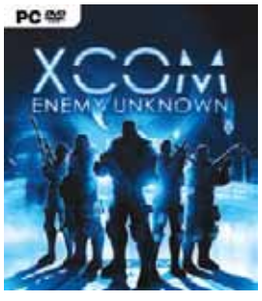
This moving adaptation of Robert Kirkman's comics dodged the predictable zombie bloodbath in favour of a finely tuned character study of two survivors.

Journey

A nameless figure trudges across a desert toward a glowing light. Simple enough, but gorgeous visuals and haunting music translate into something that's almost profound.

Borderlands 2

A gleeful mash-up of first-person shooting, role-playing and loot-collecting conventions gets bigger and badder, but what stuck with players most were the often hilarious encounters with the damaged citizens of Pandora.



XCOM: Enemy Unknown

A strategy classic returns as the forces of Earth fight back against an extraterrestrial invasion.

Fez

A two-dimensional dude named Gomez finds his world has suddenly burst into a third dimension in this gem from indie developer Phil Fish. As Gomez explores, the world of Fez continually deepens, opening up a series of mysteries.

Spec Ops: The Line

This harrowing tale from German studio Yager Development transplants Apocalypse Now to a war-torn Dubai. It's a bracing critique, not just of war but of the rah-rah jingoism of contemporary military shooters.

Assassin's Creed III

A centuries-old conspiracy takes root in Colonial America in this beautifully realized, refreshingly irreverent installment of Ubisoft's alternate history franchise.

ZombiU

The best launch game for Nintendo's new console turns the Wii U's GamePad into an effective tool for finding and hunting down the undead.

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Country legend wants you to Dream More — and buy her book

Dolly Parton.
Singer is sharing her life philosophies, pathways to success in a book full of 'little slogans' to help you

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

If there's an expert in dreaming big and achieving your heart's greatest desires, it's Dolly Parton. Growing up the fourth of 12 children to a poor tobacco farmer in Tennessee, Parton realized her biggest dream — singing on the Grand Ole Opry stage — at the age of 13. Now 66 and a certified country music icon, Parton is sharing her philosophy for success in her new book Dream More.

"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help," Parton says.

With that approach, writing her experiences to share in the book "just rolled out," she says.

Dream More is based on the wisdom the singer delivered in a 2009 commencement speech at the University of Tennessee.

A sweet, concise little book of inspiration, it is broken into four chapters that define the principles Parton lives by: dream more, learn more, care more and be more.

"You have to come up with little slogans ... and I just thought those were beautiful words," Parton says of her preparation to deliver a message of hope to graduates.

It was only when she began to expand on those "slogans" for the book that she realized "what all those things really meant for me," she says. "That's really who I am and how I've lived my life."

More from Dolly

Despite her hardscrabble background, Dolly Parton's bubbly, oversized personality bursts with warmth and positivity. The power of a good attitude is a message she shares in Dream More. She says she tries to live in her everyday life and inspire in others.

- **Quote.** "I've always hoped for things to be good, but I've also learned the best way to make things good is to make things good," she says. "If things are really falling apart, don't just fall into that — try to mend it, try to fix it, try to move forward."

Dolly Parton's new book, Dream More, is based on a graduation speech she gave. GETTY IMAGES

Receptionist/Sales Coordinator

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- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Outlook
- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

IInterested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than December 19, 2012. PLEASE QUOTE: "Receptionist/Sales Coordinator - Calgary" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Sean Penn

Penn delivers insight into romantic past

Two years after his divorce from Robin Wright, Sean Penn is opening up about their marriage — and his entire romantic history. "There is no shame in saying that we all want to be loved by someone. As I look back over my life in romance, I don't feel I've ever had that," he tells Esquire magazine. And while he doesn't mention Wright by name, he does discuss their split. "When you get divorced, all the truths come out, you sit there and go, 'What the f— was I doing? What was I doing believing that this person was invested in this way?'" he says. "Which is a fantastically strong humiliation in the best sense. It can make somebody very bitter and very hard and closed off, but I find it does the opposite to me."

Gabriel Aubry

Aubry in the clear over brawl with Martinez

Gabriel Aubry won't be facing criminal charges following his Thanksgiving day brawl with Olivier Martinez, the fiancé of ex-girlfriend Halle Berry, according to TMZ. In lieu of a formal hearing, the Los Angeles City Attorney is expected to hold an informal office meeting to discuss the altercation with Aubry, but the French-Canadian model won't have to worry about any further repercussions.

The Word

30 Rock's Jenna films final fiery tantrum

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Much to 30 Rock fans' chagrin, Jane Krakowski, a.k.a. Jenna on the hit show, is getting a little break for the holiday season now that the sitcom is currently filming their last-ever episode.

"It's a very busy time right now between wrapping up 30 Rock and being a relatively new mom, and we're having Christmas dinner at our house this year for the first time," she says at an event for Bank of America, which raised money for Feeding America.

"Hopefully it'll be good; we wanted to sort of bring the joy of Christmas to our home, so our whole family is coming over. It should be a nice day and a nice way to sort of start a new chapter with 30 Rock ending."

"Yesterday we shot Jenna's last temper tantrum; it was fantastic. They told me to go as far as I wanted to go and the entire crew applauded when it was over because everyone knew it was the last time Jenna would be insulting people and throwing things.

"It was very fun — incredibly satisfying."

Renee Zellweger ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Zellweger, it seems, has a new man in her life

Renee Zellweger apparently has a new man in her life. The actress was spotted at LAX airport smooching musician and producer Doyle Bramhall, who previously dated Sheryl Crow, according to Us Weekly. "They went to college together," a source says of the new couple. "It's going really well." Zellweger was last linked romantically to Bradley Cooper, but they split up in March 2011 after dating for less than two years.

Twitter

@ElizabethBanks
Snark all you want hipsters, Billy Joel sounds great. The man's still got it.

@IJasonAlexander
Having a blast killing my poker pals at Brad Garrett's house. One more hand, I won this house.

@iamrashidajones
I love E.T. and still believe he is real.

@GarryShandling
Oh, let the Koreans have outer space.

Home for the holidays with singer Paul Brandt

Christmas traditions. Country superstar shares why this time of the year is special to him and his family

DAN CLAPSON
life@metronews.ca

Taking a break from promoting his new album, Just as I am, Paul Brandt — Canadian country music star, husband and father of two — shares some of his favourite things about the Christmas season.

He also offers a simple recipe that's sure to be a hit at your next holiday party.

Paul Brandt loves the spirit of the holidays. Fruit Cake? Not so much. SUBMITTED

What's your favourite part about spending the holidays with your family?
I'm often overwhelmed with gratitude for my family and our relationships during Christmas. Moments when we can just be together, celebrating, singing, eating and giving gifts to each other are so precious to me.

Do you have any family traditions that take place on Christmas Day?
A mandarin orange being in the toe of our Christmas stockings. The orange has to be eaten, and stockings emptied, before we can move on to the presents.

Are you pretty hands-on in the kitchen while making the holiday dinner?
I like being hands-on, but my mom and mother-in-law do the majority of the work for the big family dinners. I will happily jump in and carve the turkey... and maybe reserve a choice piece or two for myself as payment for my services.

Do people ever request an impromptu mini-Christmas concert in December? Do you have a favourite holiday song to sing?
I am often asked to sing around Christmas ... and I don't know why, but one of my favourites to sing has always been I'll Be Home For Christmas. Probably one of the most depressing Christmas songs ever, but I love crooning it.

The most memorable gift you've ever gotten at Christmas was...
I first met my "wife to be" at a Christmas Eve church service in Calgary back in 1995. Three months before that date, I had heard her sing at that same church, and I was smitten from the moment I laid eyes on her...

Fruitcake. Love it or hate it?
Is "loathe" too strong a word?

What is the one thing in your life that really makes the holidays complete?
For me, the Christmas season is all about my faith. This faith perspective during the holidays reminds me to go out of my way to think about and help others, and when I do, I feel like the holidays really come together for me in a special, memorable way.

Liquid Assets

Glass full of holiday spirit

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it took a few bottles of bubbly and repeat viewings of A Charlie Brown Christmas, I've finally found my holiday spirit.

While I'm sure some of you will have an alternative to turkey as the star of your Xmas meal, the big bird is it for the majority of us, so this week I'm focusing on white wines to match.

Roast turkey never makes an appearance in the dining room alone. And it's all of the side dishes (like cranberry sauce, herbaceous stuffing and sweet potatoes) that have the greatest chance of clashing with your wine choice.

An off-dry white made with the peppery gewürztraminer grape or medium-dry riesling grape from any country is a great pick. So is one made with sauvignon blanc from New Zealand or France.

I'm partial to a lightly oaked chardonnay. The majority of white French Burgundy wines fit the bill, as do many chards from Australia, Chile, Canada and California.

The 2010 J. Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay ($18.95 - $22.99) used to be an oak bomb, but recent vintages have seen it transformed into a mouth full of tropical fruit with butterscotch aromatics and a subtle, turkey-friendly tone of wood.

Next week, the reds. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Entertain with Paul's Picked Shrimp

This is Paul Brandt's go-to recipe for holiday entertaining. DAN CLAPSON

When Paul Brandt has guests during the holiday season, he serves up this easy to make Pickled Shrimp appetizer.

1. Thaw shrimp under cool water and drain. Layer shrimp, onion and bay leaves in shallow dish. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over shrimp. Cover and chill 24 hours. **RECIPE BY PAUL BRANDT**

Ingredients

- 1-2 bags cooked frozen shrimp
- onions, sliced thinly
- several bay leaves
- 1 cup olive oil
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 3 tbsp capers with juice
- 2 1/2 tsp celery deed
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 drops Tabasco sauce
- Juice of 2 lemons

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Dec14

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Kid Koala, Money Mark and the Space Cadet Headphone Experience

If you love music, the National Music Centre (134 11 Ave. SE) is the place to be Friday night. As part of the NMC Astral Radio artist-in-residence program, world-renowned scratch DJ Kid Koala will perform his highly praised and much anticipated Space Cadet Headphone immersive concert experience at the National Music Centre.

Cinematheque's Christmas Family Film presents: Charles Chaplin's The Gold Rush

Ready to warm up on a winter weekend? Cinematheque's Christmas film presents a silent feel-good comedy, The Gold Rush, at Plaza Theatre (1133 Kensington Rd. NW). This classic film tells the story of the tramp (played by Chaplin) who travels to the Yukon to take part in the Klondike Gold Rush. In his search for wealth he ends up finding much more than just gold. Dec. 15.

Jingle Bell Brunch

It's time to enjoy a Sunday brunch with a Christmas twist. Taking place at The Rimrock in the Fairmont Palliser (133 9 Ave. SW), you can enjoy a traditional feast with all sorts of holiday favourites on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Christmas in Song

A treasured part of the city's holiday festivities, The Mount Royal University Conservatory's Christmas in Song concert is back again at the Jubilee Auditorium. This program of holiday favourites and traditional carols will feature the Mount Royal Children's Choir, Mount Royal Youth Choir, Calgary Boys' Choir and Mount Royal Kantorei, as well as Mount Royal's Calgary Youth Orchestra. Special guests the Heebee-jeebies, and Mount Royal Conservatory alumni, will emcee. Dec. 15.

Run Santa Run

Get your shoes and jolly red suits out for Calgary's only All Santa Run & Walk this Saturday, which features a 5/10 km run and 3 km walk, starting and finishing Saturday morning at Eau Claire Market (200 Barclay Parade SW). This run is not only fun but also supports The Third Academy, the largest designated special education private school fully accredited by Alberta Education, serving grade 1 to 12.

We Should Know Each Other

A crossroad of communities, We Should Know Each Other invites people to stretch the limits of their social circles and enhance their thinking with a diversity of new ideas and perspectives. Take this opportunity to step outside of your social circle and meet the fantastic diversity of people that surround you. Dec. 16.
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HOLIDAY 2012 m gift guide

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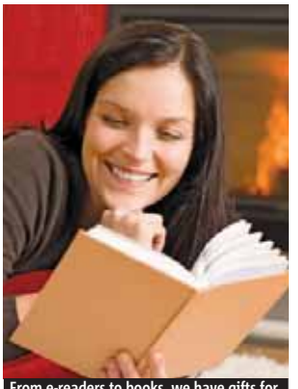

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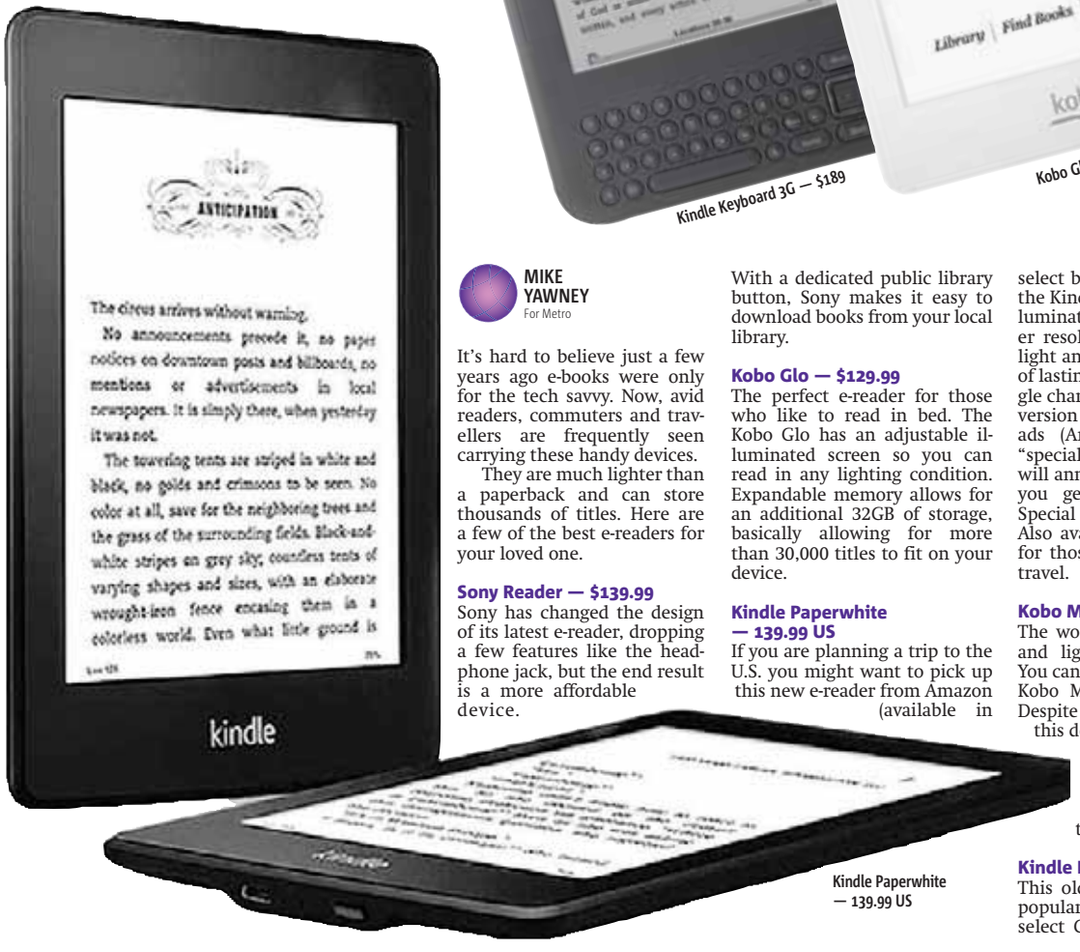


Kindle Paperwhite — 139.99 US

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

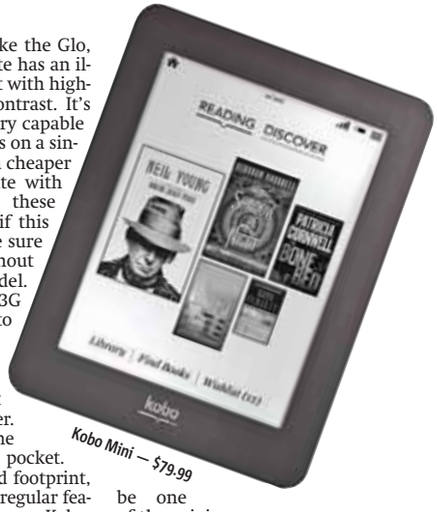
It's hard to believe just a few years ago e-books were only for the tech savvy. Now, avid readers, commuters and travellers are frequently seen carrying these handy devices.

They are much lighter than a paperback and can store thousands of titles. Here are a few of the best e-readers for your loved one.

Sony Reader — $139.99
Sony has changed the design of its latest e-reader, dropping a few features like the headphone jack, but the end result is a more affordable device. With a dedicated public library button, Sony makes it easy to download books from your local library.

Kobo Glo — $129.99
The perfect e-reader for those who like to read in bed. The Kobo Glo has an adjustable illuminated screen so you can read in any lighting condition. Expandable memory allows for an additional 32GB of storage, basically allowing for more than 30,000 titles to fit on your device.

Kindle Paperwhite — 139.99 US
If you are planning a trip to the U.S. you might want to pick up this new e-reader from Amazon (available in select box stores). Like the Glo, the Kindle Paperwhite has an illuminated screen but with higher resolution and contrast. It's light and has a battery capable of lasting eight weeks on a single charge. There is a cheaper version of Paperwhite with ads (Amazon calls these "special offers"), so if this will annoy you make sure you get the "Without Special Offers" model. Also available with 3G for those who like to travel.



Kobo Mini — $79.99

Kobo Mini — $79.99
The world's smallest and lightest e-reader. You can actually fit the Kobo Mini in your pocket. Despite its palm-sized footprint, this device has the regular features of a larger Kobo, complete with anti-glare screen and long battery life. Perfect for those who read on the go.

Kindle Keyboard 3G — $189
This older model of Amazon's popular e-reader is available in select Canadian stores. It may be one of the originals, but it remains a favourite for those who like downloading on the go. The 3G connectivity means you can download new titles anywhere you have cell reception at no additional charge. The built-in keyboard is great for those who hate touch-screen typing.

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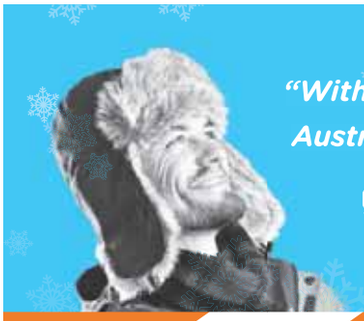

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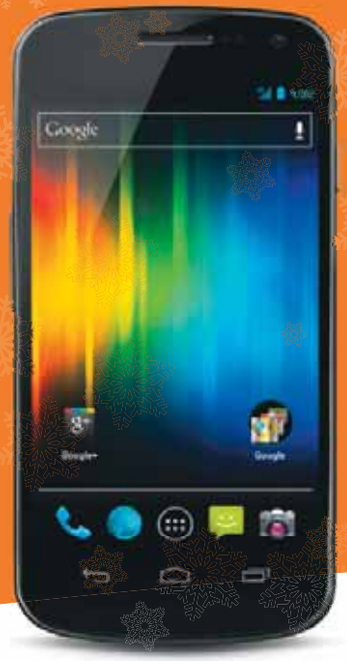

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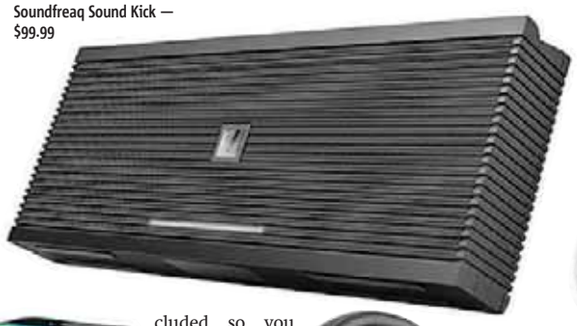

Ambiance. Music from these MP3 players and accessories can add to holiday atmosphere

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Music can invigorate, relax, and inspire. It's no wonder so many choose to share the gift of music during the holidays. Here are the best MP3 related gifts you can put under the tree.

iPod Touch — $299 and up
All the features of an iPhone without the actual phone. Apple's iPod Touch remains one of the best MP3 players on the market, probably due to the fact you can do so much with it. Play games, download apps, or video chat with loved ones. The new stylish design and retina screen ensure this will be a hit on Christmas morning.

Samsung Galaxy Player 4.2 — $179.99
A device for those who prefer Android over Apple. The Galaxy Player puts everything you like about Android smartphones into a small portable device minus the monthly fees. Music, apps, camera … it's all here, including FM radio!

Belkin Bluetooth Music Receiver — $49.95
Play music from your Bluetooth-enabled devices through your home stereo or standalone speakers — wirelessly. This tiny device will work with any speaker or stereo as long as it has an "aux in" port. Despite its small size, it transmits up to 33 feet away and will remember up to six paired devices.

Monster Inspiration Over-Ear Headphones — $349.99
Premium headphones for the audiophile in your life. These noise-cancelling headphones feature exceptional music production with ultra-comfortable ear cushions for extended wear. Remote and microphone cables come included so you can take calls on your smartphone without missing a beat. You can also swap out the headband for a more personalized look.

Soundfreaq Sound Kick — $99.99
Great sound without breaking the bank. This portable Bluetooth speaker not only gives you seven hours of play on a single charge, it also features a USB port so you can charge your MP3 player or smartphone. Brilliant!

Sony XBA Balanced Armature Sports Earbuds — $99.99
Ideal for those who listen to music while working out. These earbuds are not only sweat-resistant, they are waterproof, meaning you can wash them to ensure they are clean and ready for your next workout. Washing your MP3 player, however, isn't recommended.

SiriusXM Lynx — $299.99
A satellite radio receiver like no other. Listen to SiriusXM in your vehicle or in your home via Wi-Fi. This small, stylish receiver allows you to pause, rewind and record satellite radio, stream to Bluetooth speakers in your home, or play your own MP3s thanks to a built-in memory card slot. This is also the first satellite radio receiver to feature a high-definition touchscreen.

Clockwise, from top, iPod Touch — $299 and up, SiriusXM Lynx — $299.99, Belkin Bluetooth Music Receiver — $49.95, Sony XBA Balanced Armature Sports Earbuds — $99.99, Samsung Galaxy Player 4.2 — $179.99.

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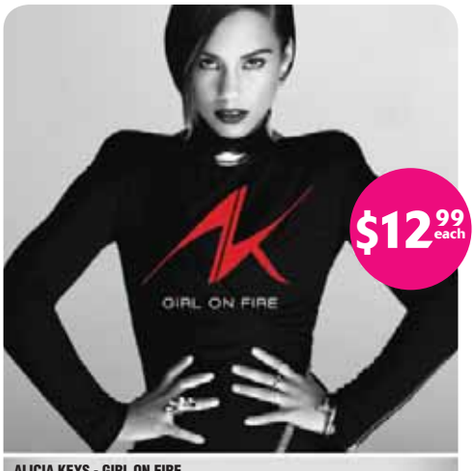

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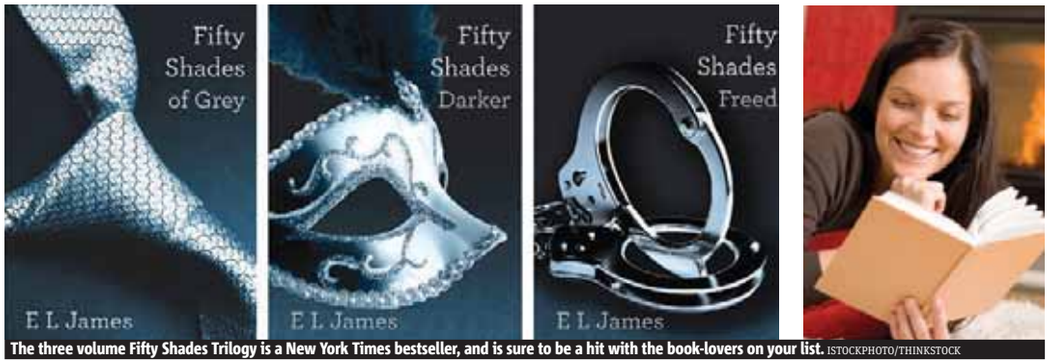
Best books for the ladies on your list

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

A roundup of the top five books that are sure to engross the women on your Christmas 2012 gift list — and two stocking-stuffer suggestions.



The three volume Fifty Shades Trilogy is a New York Times bestseller, and is sure to be a hit with the book-lovers on your list. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

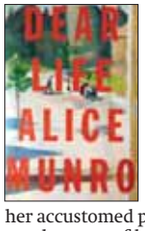
Fifty Shades Trilogy

E. L. James, $47.85, Knopf Doubledy Publishing Group, Paperback Box Set.

The three-volume paperback boxed set of the New York Times #1 bestselling trilogy includes Fifty Shades of Grey, Fifty Shades Darker and Fifty Shades Freed.

Dear Life

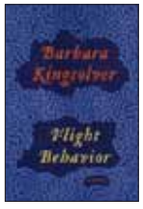
Alice Munro, $32.99, McClelland & Stewart, Hardcover.



The award-winning author illumines the moment a life is shaped — the moment a dream, or sex or a twist of fate turns a person out of her accustomed path and into another way of being — with stories set in the area around Lake Ontario where Munro herself lives.

Flight Behavior

Barbara Kingsolver, $31.99, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., Hardcover.



Set in present-day rural Tennessee, this novel tells to the story of Dellarobia Turnbow, a restless young farmwife who, after years of isolation and boredom, finds her path in life suddenly opening out.

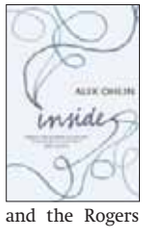
Let's Pretend This Never Happened: (A Mostly True Memoir)

Jenny Lawson, $27.50, Penguin USA, Hardcover.

Blogging sensation Jenny Lawson takes readers on a hilarious journey recalling her bizarre upbringing in Texas, her awkward high school years and her relationship with her long-suffering husband. The premise: the most mortifying moments of our lives are the ones that define us.

Inside

Alix Ohlin, $22.95, House of Anansi Press Inc., Paperback.



Shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the book follows four compelling and complex characters from Montreal, New York, Hollywood and Rwanda, and explores the dangers and imperatives of making ourselves available to, and responsible for, those dearest to us.

And check out these paperback stocking stuffers:

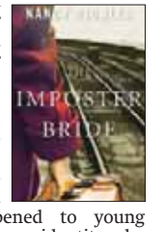
Bossypants

Tina Fey, $17.50, Little, Brown and Company, Paperback.

With frank humour, Fey tells her life story — from her early days as a nerd to landing on Saturday Night Live to becoming a mom. As the book's description says: Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy. (Includes Special, Never-Before-Solicited Opinions on Breastfeeding, Princesses, Photoshop, the Electoral Process and Italian Rum Cake!).

The Imposter Bride

Nancy Richler, $17.99, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., Paperback.



The story centres around Lily Azerov, a young woman arriving in postwar Montreal to meet her betrothed, Sol Kramer. But Lily is not who she claims to be. Who is Lily and what happened to young woman whose identity she stole?

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Top holiday reads for him

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

A rundown of the top books that are sure to engross any man on your gift list this Christmas.

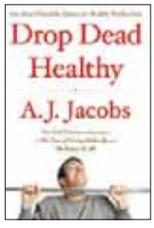
The Racketeer

John Grisham, Random House, $28.95, Paperback.

In this wickedly clever new novel from the master of the legal thriller, judge Raymond Fawcett is found dead in his remote lakeside cabin and one man, Malcolm Bannister, a.k.a. the Racketeer, knows who killed the federal judge and why.

Drop Dead Healthy: One Man's Humble Quest for Bodily Perfection

A.J. Jacobs, Simon & Schuster, $18.99, Paperback.



Jacobs, editor-at-large at Esquire magazine, explores every aspect of the body in this New York Times Bestseller and, over the course of two years, subjects himself to a grueling yet entertaining regimen of exercise, diets and experiments in his quest to makeover his body and become the healthiest person in the world. Part memoir, part adventure, part how-to manual, the book is not only informative and inspiring but a tremendously good laugh.

419

Will Ferguson, Penguin Group Canada, $20, Paperback.

Winner of the 2012 Scotia-Bank Giller Prize, this novel is described as both epic in its sweep and intimate in its portrayal of human endurance. Author Ferguson, an internationally bestselling travel writer, takes readers deep into the labyrinth of lies that is the world's most insidious Internet scam. Lives intersect. Worlds collide and it all begins with a single email: "Dear Sir, I am the daughter of a Nigerian diplomat and I need your help."

Mortality

Christopher Hitchens, McClelland & Stewart, $22.99, Hardcover.

Based on award-winning columnist Hitchens' columns in Vanity Fair that chronicled his year-and-a-half battle with esophageal cancer, Mortality is the writer's most honest and reflective. Throughout the course of his ordeal, which ended with his death in December 2011, Hitchens bravely refused the solace of religion, preferring to confront death with both eyes open.

Cloud Atlas

David Mitchell, Knopf Canada, $24.95, Paperback.

In this captivating 2004 novel (from which the current science fiction drama starring Halle Berry and Tom Hanks was adapted), award-winning British author David Mitchell erases the boundaries of language, genre and time to offer a meditation on humanity's dangerous will to power and where it may lead us through six nested stories spanning centuries and continents.

Whirl Away: Stories

Russell Wangersky, Thomas Allen Publishers, $21.95, Paperback.

Everyone has a particular personal skill that they use to keep their lives moving forward when things suddenly become difficult. This collection of short fiction looks at what happens when people's personal coping skills go awry.

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How to pick the top toys

RENEE LINDO
YummyMummyClub.ca

As parents, we want to make good decisions on how we spend our money and the value we receive in return, especially when it comes to toys.

A new toy can become "old" very quickly as the toy is no longer interesting or the kids have mastered or outgrown it. A trip to the local toy store, especially over the holidays, can be quite overwhelming for parents — there are thousands of toys available.

Here are a few quick tips to keep in mind as you boldly and confidently choose the perfect toys this holiday season.

Determine the toy's age appropriateness

Every age and every stage of development requires different challenges and support. Evaluate the "fit" for your child in terms of age, maturity, developmental level, and where their interests lie.

Evaluate the educational component/value

Look for toys that teach more than one thing and can be used in several different ways. For example, building blocks can teach ABCs, colours and spatial relations, and are also used to build unlimited structures. Similarly, construction sets allow unlimited creations and activities.

Can the toy grow with your child?

You want toys that have utility across several different age ranges. My baby uses blocks because they are colourful and visually exciting and my eight-year-old uses the same blocks to build forts. I think that's good value for money.

Look for problem-solving opportunities

This is why I love puzzles. The best way for children to learn is with puzzles, and they are fun. Puzzles help to develop the all-important logical and abstract "out-of-box" thinking. Puzzles, sorters and stackers are great options.

Encourage imagination

Creative play is another important consideration. By about three years old, storytelling, dress-up and make-believe are a big part of playtime. These activities help formulate their ideas and build literacy skills.

In a nutshell, you want toys that support and augment the learning process with a high fun factor.

YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP BUSY WOMEN SURVIVE MOTHERHOOD.

Toy selection can be overwhelming, but there are ways to get great value out of the toys you buy for your children. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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Celebrate. Try these tips for your holiday bash

Good lighting is a must at a holiday party. EYE CANDY IMAGES/THINKSTOCK

Whether you're hosting a party for 30 or 300 people this holiday season, it's important to plan and prepare leading up to the big day.

Selecting the menu, creating the holiday décor, and ensuring the space is spotless before guests arrive, is paramount.

Here are some tips and tricks for hosting the perfect holiday party:

• Start with a colour theme: red and gold or white and silver are both perfect for a holiday party. Incorporate these colours into everything from your invitations to your decorations.

• Create vignettes throughout your home by grouping candles, ornaments, and flowers in the most visible spaces.

• Save yourself the mess and use an artificial tree. Artificial trees look just as good as the real ones so your guests won't be able to tell the difference.

• Good lighting is a must. Use lights on dimmers or consider adjusting the lighting with candles. There's no such thing as too many candles — don't be shy about using votives, pillars, and tapers everywhere.

• Sit-down dinners can be intimidating so set up a variety of food stations instead. Set up a turkey carving station and let people help themselves to sides, like salads, and stuffing.

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Meet the 2012 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award winners.

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The Canadian Children's Book Centre

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Hosting for Hope is a partnership initiative between the Canadian Women's Foundation and HomeSense. CONTRIBUTED

Turn your party into a Hope event

Charity. Hosting a holiday bash? Now you can add a feel-good element to your fun

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Looking to do something meaningful this time of year?

While you could collect food for your local food bank or sign up to serve a holiday meal to the homeless, you could also turn your annual holiday open house into a Hosting for Hope event.

Hosting for Hope, which is a partnership initiative between the Canadian Women's Foundation and HomeSense, is a national event in which your party, brunch, lunch, tea or any other holiday party this season can be turned into a fundraiser for local women's shelters and violence prevention programs.

"We're hoping that Canadians, who will already be throwing parties this season regardless, could register their party at hostingforhope.ca and then ask the guests to make a donation instead of bringing a bottle of wine," says Tamara Robbins Griffith, public relations manager for Toronto-based HomeSense.

Those hosting the parties register with a $50 contribution to the initiative and from there they can send e-vites, messages and post pictures of their event. In turn, HomeSense will send a $25 thank you gift card to the host.

The site is also home for a number of party planning tips — such as how to dress up your powder room for the event, to how to make your own cake stand, to ideas for a good party playlist, and on the flipside, also allows you to find a shelter near you where your money would go as well as detailing exactly how your donation will be spent.

This is the first year of the initiative and Robbins Griffith hopes it'll prove successful and turn into an annual event.

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible," adds Robbins Griffith. "This is a way to feel really good about the consumerism of the season. We know you're going to spend money throwing your party but wouldn't you rather have your guests make a donation that goes to local women's shelters and violence prevention programs in your community instead of bringing you potentially a hostess gift that you don't need?

"It's not a big ask and it will make people feel really good while having fun."

FOCUS ON OTHERS THIS SEASON

With Christmas just around the corner, it's pretty much crunch time for getting your shopping done. Have you considered giving "charitable gifts" instead of presents — it's a really good idea.

"It is the time of year for thinking of others and reflecting on what contribution we can make to the world," says Maggie Leithead, president and CEO of Charity Village. "Most of us don't need more in our lives, so giving is a marvellous way to celebrate the holiday ... and you're not walking around with more ties or cheeky coffee mugs."

Owen Charters, CEO of Canada Helps, an online resource for donors and charities, says, "When we are celebrating with gifts and material items and living our lives of abundance, this is a chance to focus on the other side."

Giving a CanadaHelps gift card that supports a charity to a child in your life is a good idea, says Charters, "because it allows them to learn what charity is, why it's important and how to give ... and to think about, after all those great gifts under the tree, what about those who don't have gifts?"

There are so many ways to give. An animal lover, for example, might like to adopt a guide dog puppy and provide funds for its training. A nature lover would appreciate donations to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to help protect habitat for wildlife such as the Canada lynx, grizzly bear or snowy owl. For $50, you can pay for cataract surgery for someone in Nepal through SEVA. Plan Canada offers similar options, from buying baby chicks to help a Third World family support itself to up to $250 for classroom essentials. For $28, you can buy clean water kits for two families through unicef.ca/inspire.

Leithead suggests starting with an organization that is meaningful to you or the person you are giving to — think about whether he or she has an interest in the arts or environment or international development or health care.

– Ylva Van Buuren

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

GIFT OF KINDNESS

In the Spirit of Giving, Charity Village posts random acts of kindness on its website, as well as Facebook and Twitter pages. Here are some ideas:

- Give someone a sprig of thyme — with a promise to help them with anything they want.
- Every time you grocery shop, buy extra canned foods and give them to the food bank.
- Bake cupcakes and take them to your office.
- Give up your seat on public transit or pay someone else's fare.
- At the coffee shop, buy a coffee for someone waiting in line behind you.

HELP A SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD SMILE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WITH STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

For more than 20 years, Starlight Children's Foundation has been transforming the lives of Canadian children with a serious illness or life-altering injury.

What makes Starlight unique is that they are there for the child throughout their journey — from the emergency room to recovery.

While in-hospital, Starlight provides entertainment and distraction from the stress and boredom of hospitalization. When out-of-hospital, Starlight children and their families benefit from the Escapes and Adventure programs — offering time to have fun together and to leave the sick behind.

"Thank you to Starlight for making my battle against cancer easier by giving me fun events to look forward to," says nine-year-old Trev.

"Those moments when some happiness is brought to your child are huge. It gave us strength to see him smile," says Charlene, Trev's mom.

Featured Starlight gifts include:

Abblicious Bear ($20) — The adorable Abbilicious Bear will put comfort right into the arms of a child.

Baby Bundles Fun Kit ($40) —The kit comes with a book, toy, and blanket to comfort babies in the hospital.

Great Escapes Event ($250) — Provide a Starlight child and their family a chance to spend quality time together, away from medical treatments.

Shop today at bookofsmiles.org.

YOU CAN BRING HOPE AND CHANGE

WITH GIFTS OF HOPE FROM PLAN CANADA

Thinking of giving your child's teachers or daycare employees a more meaningful gift this year?

If so, then maybe charitable gift giving is for you. It was for Ruth Pogue and her husband, Greg McLean, who opted to give their children's teachers Gifts of Hope through Plan Canada rather than yet another coffee mug and gift card. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's ethical gift giving program focused on bringing change and hope to communities in need.

"I was looking for something different to give," says the Calgary-based Pogue. "And I'd just received a Plan Canada catalogue for Gifts of Hope in the mail. I started thumbing through it and there were some great gifts in there for $25 to $30 so I started giving those at Christmastime to teachers."

For Pogue it was a way to give a gift with more impact — after all, Plan, a non-profit charity, reaches more than 90,000 communities and 174.2 million people around the world. "What I like about Plan is that a lot of their Gifts of Hope are providing solutions to people, be it water or nutrition or maternity clinics," Pogue adds. "So they're enduring gifts or opportunities to help on an ongoing basis."

That's the intention of these gifts, notes Jeff Cornett, Plan Canada's vice-president of donor marketing. "Whether it is clean water for a family, a mango tree for a classroom to teach children gardening skills, or a goat that will provide milk, nourishment, and a source of income for a family, these gifts create a real difference in the lives of children and can help lift entire communities out of poverty."

Ruth Pogue with her husband, Greg McLean.

PLAN CANADA PHOTO

Last year's enduring gift that Pogue selected was the peanut butter project, a gift that, for $35, helps provide a valuable source of protein for growing children, and supports local businesses as well. The gift funded women's peanut butter co-operatives whose work included processing the peanuts, and also provided them with training in business and marketing.

While the catalogue is available online at plangifts.com, you can also order the gifts by phone at 1-800-387-1418 or mail in the catalogue order form. And along with giving the gift, Plan also followed up and sent Pogue and fellow donors updates about how some of the projects were faring.

"With Plan Canada, I feel like there really is a plan," Pogue says.

"It's helping these communities to further themselves. You feel your money is going to something worthy."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

When donating to charities, many of us pick a donation area that's significant to us. And it's the ability to direct donations that donors like Kathy Crowell enjoy when she purchases a Gift of Hope through the non-profit charity Plan Canada.

Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's ethical gift giving program focused on bringing change and hope to communities in need.

"I've given my sister Gifts of Hope for the past few years as Christmas gifts," Crowell says.

"I've always given livestock as she is a true animal lover."

Gifts of Hope allow donors to direct funds and engage in Plan's key areas of work such as education, health, clean water, micro-finance and livelihood, and disaster and emergency response.

Many of Plan Canada's gifts also have a donation matching system in which contributions can be matched with a donation from generous funding partners. For example, a $70 donation to provide maternity beds and supplies has a 6-to-1 match ratio, meaning a $70 donation actually ends up having a value of $490.

While a number of Gifts of Hope continue to be popular — such as a mango trees ($15 each, 10 for $120), classroom essentials ($17 for one child, $250 for an entire classroom) to even purchasing a goat ($75 each, $775/herd), which can help provide income and food for families — this year, Plan Canada has also added a number of new gifts. These include: Newborn checkup ($12); help orphaned children affected by HIV ($75); build and stock a school kitchen ($500); and more.

Kathy Crowell in the Virunga mountains with students who are learning a traditional dance.

PLAN CANADA PHOTO

"In addition, this year anyone who purchases a Gift of Hope will be entered to win a trip to Tanzania in 2013 to see Gifts of Hope in action," says Jeff Cornett, Plan Canada's vice-president of donor marketing.

That's what Crowell had a chance to do last year when she travelled to Rwanda through the organization.

"We were able to see the school that was being built, a clinic, a livestock co-op and a micro-financing project," she says.

"Plan Canada is truly making a difference in the world — these Gifts of Hope work. My experience in Rwanda was life-changing."

FIVE GIFTS FOR LESS THAN $50

Here are five gifts less than $50 you can get through Plan Canada's Gifts of Hope program.

NEWBORN CHECKUP ($12): To help support workers who visit moms and their newborns in the first three days of the baby's birth, this kind of checkup can help improve infant mortality rates.

3 BABY CHICKS ($17): Once they start laying eggs, chickens become an instant source of income, often for women. They are also an important teaching tool for young girls to learn livestock management skills.

GIRLS' HYGIENE ESSENTIALS ($25): This gift is essential and can be handed out in critical times such as war/conflict or a natural disaster.

ANTI-MALARIA BED NETS ($30): These nets are locally made and can cover an entire family to help prevent the spread of malaria.

ENDLESS HARVEST ($40): An all-in-one gift that provides gardening essentials such as seeds, tools and training in pest control and farm management.

EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS ($50): For natural disasters or emergencies of any kind, this gift allows Plan to get into a crisis zone fast to help distribute clean water, tarps, high-energy food rations, hygiene supplies and more.

Give a Gift of Hope
Why a goat?
When you give a goat, you provide a family in a developing country with nourishment, the makings of a family business, and a new future. **Gifts of Hope** are real gifts to real projects that change real lives.
Charitable Registration Number: 11892 8993 RR0001
Think outside the gift box
Shop now at plangifts.com
Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies, working in partnership with millions of people around the world to end global poverty.
Plan

WSPA PHOTO

DOGS AROUND THE WORLD NEED YOUR HELP

WITH REALLY WILD GIFTS FROM WSPA

Around the world, people and dogs live together. In some communities, however, that bond is being tested.

Every year, more than 20 million dogs are brutally killed, and fear of rabies is often used as the excuse. That's 38 dogs killed every minute. People think it will stop rabies, but it doesn't.

Through the Collars Not Cruelty campaign, WSPA works with local partners and authorities to stop the killing of dogs and instead sets up vaccination clinics. In turn, the dogs are vaccinated against rabies and given a bright red collar so the community knows these dogs are safe, preventing them from being killed, and protecting everyone from rabies.

Really Wild Gifts are environmentally friendly gifts that help protect animals. This holiday season give a gift and save a dog. By purchasing a Really Wild Gift, you could help buy vaccinations for all the dogs in one small village in Bangladesh or help pay for 15 dogs to be vaccinated and receive a red collar.

When you buy a gift, you also receive: WSPA customizable e-card; WSPA desktop wallpaper; holiday gift tags; and Really Wild DIY Origami.

WSPA Canada is a registered charity, and Really Wild Gifts are eligible for tax receipts. Send tail-wagging gifts at ReallyWildGifts.ca.

Buy a gift. Save a life.

MANY WAYS TO DONATE TO SALVATION ARMY

If you want to donate to those in need, the Salvation Army wants to hear from you.

You know the Army well. You have seen its familiar red kettles on street corners, in malls and at transit stops. Those kettles are minded by Salvation Army volunteers, dressed brightly for the season, ringing or jingling their bells. Some volunteers even sing. It's their job to offer you a quick and easy way to donate — and your contribution is always appreciated.

But this is just one of the ways the Salvation Army helps you give. You can donate any amount you want by mailing a cheque or money order, payable to the Army; or you can donate over the phone, using your credit card. You can even donate online.

Clothing and household goods are needed, too. To give, simply fill a bag with new or gently-used items, then drop it off at your nearest Salvation Army Thrift Store.

You can even donate your time. Salvation Army volunteers come from all backgrounds and all ages; and they help out in a myriad of ways.

You could even be a bell-ringer, minding a kettle of your own.

However you choose to give, you will be part of the Salvation Army's 130-year tradition of giving — one that will continue for as long as people in your community need help.

To find out more about how you can donate clothing and household items this season, phone 800-757-4483 (PLS-GIVE), or visit thriftstore.ca. And to inquire about corporate donations, contact Colin Mackenzie, product sourcing manager, at 204-953-1514.

CONTRIBUTED

NHL

Obama puts two cents in on lockout

Two days of talks between the NHL, the players' association, and federal mediators still haven't provided any answers on how to end the lockout.

Representatives from the fighting sides made it into the same room with a federal mediator Thursday. They just didn't make any noticeable progress. After a failed day Wednesday when the parties on either end of the hockey labour dispute never met with each other, lawyers from each group spoke face-to-face Thursday.

They appear no closer to a deal to save the season.

U.S. President Barack Obama addressed the stalemate in an interview Thursday with WCCO-TV in Minneapolis.

"I shouldn't have to be involved in a dispute between really wealthy players and even wealthier owners. They should be able to settle this themselves. And remember who it is that's putting all that money in their pockets," Obama said.

At no point on either day this week did union executive director Donald Fehr meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and deputy commissioner Bill Daly.

Daly said he expected to talk to NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr Friday.

"I'm not sure what the next steps will be," Daly told the AP in an email. "I do expect the mediators to stay involved in terms of monitoring our ongoing negotiations, but at this point there are no further sessions planned. It doesn't appear there was movement by either side on any of the main issues over the last two days." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reason to cheer for prolonged lockout

World juniors. Canadian squad should be most talented in years, assuming NHL labour dispute continues

Nathan MacKinnon, left, from Cole Harbour, N.S., and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, from Burnaby, B.C., chat at selection camp in Calgary on Wednesday. Both MacKinnon and his Halifax Mooseheads teammate Jonathan Drouin cracked the Canadian roster as 17-year-olds. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Mark Scheifele, Jonathan Huberdeau. Not bad for a first line. With Dougie Hamilton and Morgan Rielly as the top defence pairing. And probably Malcolm Subban in net.

Coach Steve Spott has picked his talent-loaded team — the 23 players who will represent Canada at the world junior hockey championship in Russia — after a bullet-quick training camp.

Now he can only hope he can keep the team together.

The NHL lockout — or, the possibility that the lockout could end before the tournament is over — haunts him.

How worried is he? "On a scale of one to 10," he said. "Fourteen."

There's a very real risk that one, two or more of his players could be called to their NHL camp if the lockout ends. If they're called before midnight Dec. 25 — the deadline for handing in his roster — they can be replaced. If they're called after, Team Canada would play undermanned.

And it's the team's best players — Nugent-Hopkins (by Edmonton), Huberdeau (by Florida), Hamilton (by Boston) — who are the highest risk of being called back.

Some teams have pledged to Hockey Canada to allow their players to stay through the end of the tournament: The Leafs (Rielly), the Blues (Jordan Binnington, Ty Rattie), the Blue Jackets (Boone Jenner) and Penguins (Scott Harrington).

Scheifele has told the media that the Jets would let him stay, but the Jets have not told Hockey Canada that.

It may come down to public pressure for teams — especially Canadian teams — to leave their players in the tournament.

"We know exactly what we're dealing with," said Scott Salmond, Hockey Canada's senior director of operations.

"I would say it's just like an injury. If someone gets injured between the time we leave for Europe and the time the tournament starts, we can replace those guys. Unfortunately, obviously, it's going to be some of our best players. We've got great depth. We'll just have to call other guys in and some other guys will have to step up."

Plan B is to call back players from among the eight released Thursday evening: Goalie Laurent Brossoit, defencemen Frankie Corrado, Ryan Sproul and Matt Dumba and forwards Daniel Catenacci, Tom Wilson, Mark McNeill and Hunter Shinkaruk. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"If that was to happen, we have a plan in place to be able to deal with it."

Hockey Canada senior director of operations Scott Salmond on the possibility of losing some top Canadians in the event of a resolution to the NHL lockout

Sweet 17

Halifax Mooseheads duo Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin have cracked the Canadian roster as 17-year-olds.

- The inclusion of the pair is significant because the NHL lockout made all the country's top 19-year-old talent available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CFL. 'Passion and love' for Alouettes compels QB Calvillo to continue

Anthony Calvillo says he feels great and he's playing well, so why retire even if he is 40 years old?

The Montreal Alouettes quarterback who was named a CFL all-star for a fifth time this season announced Thursday that he will return for a 20th season. He signed a contract for a year plus an option year, and will make another decision on whether to continue after the 2013 campaign.

"I have to evaluate every season if I still enjoy what I do, and I do," Calvillo said. "I strongly believe that this organization is going to continue to have success and I want to be part of that."

The league's all-time passing leader had his left, non-throwing arm in a sling from surgery last Friday to repair a torn labrum

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Going on 20 years, at one point, you're supposed to retire and that day will come. But today's not it. I have too much passion and love for this organization."

Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo

NBA

Knicks send Lakers to another loss

Carmelo Anthony scored 22 of his 30 points in the first quarter, and the New York Knicks held on after he departed with a sprained left ankle to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 116-107 on Thursday night in coach Mike D'Antoni's return to Madison Square Garden.

Firing in three-pointers and moving the ball to open shooters, things they often struggled to do under D'Antoni, the Knicks won for the eighth time in nine games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slugger Hamilton leaves Rangers for rival Angels

Highly prized free agent Josh Hamilton, pictured as a Texas Ranger in June, has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Angels. TIM SHARP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MLB. Hamilton, the AL's most valuable player in 2010, gets second-highest salary in baseball

Josh Hamilton left the Texas Rangers on Thursday and agreed to a $125-million US, five-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said the slugging free-agent outfielder had reached a deal with the AL West rival Angels. Two people familiar with the talks disclosed the amount and length of the contract, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

Hamilton's $25-million average salary matches Philadelphia first baseman Ryan Howard for the second-highest in baseball, trailing only Alex Rodriguez's $27.5-million average with the New York Yankees.

Texas had hoped to re-sign the 2010 AL most valuable player, who led the Rangers to consecutive World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011.

Speaking Thursday after a Rangers holiday luncheon, Daniels said he had just been informed of the decision by Hamilton's agent, Michael Moye.

"I never expected that he was going to tell us to the dollar what they had, and a chance to offer it. Our full expectation, the phone call was going to be before he signed, and certainly not after," Daniels said. "Everybody's got to make their own calls." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big-spending Angels

- Hamilton joins a team that spent big last off-season to add first baseman Albert Pujols for $240 million and pitcher C.J. Wilson — Hamilton's Texas teammate — for $77.5 million.
- Yet the Angels disappointed and failed to make the playoffs.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	5	.773	—
Miami	14	6	.700	2
Atlanta	14	6	.700	2
Chicago	12	9	.571	41/2
Brooklyn	12	9	.571	41/2
Boston	12	9	.571	41/2
Milwaukee	11	9	.550	5
Philadelphia	12	10	.545	5
Indiana	11	11	.500	6
Orlando	8	13	.381	81/2
Charlotte	7	15	.318	10
Detroit	7	17	.292	11
Cleveland	5	18	.217	121/2
Toronto	4	19	.174	131/2
Washington	3	16	.158	121/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	18	4	.818	—
San Antonio	18	5	.783	1/2
Memphis	14	5	.737	21/2
L.A. Clippers	16	6	.727	2
Golden State	15	7	.682	3
Utah	13	10	.565	51/2
Minnesota	10	9	.526	61/2
Dallas	11	11	.500	7
Denver	11	12	.478	71/2
Houston	10	11	.476	71/2
Portland	9	12	.429	81/2
L.A. Lakers	9	14	.391	91/2
Phoenix	8	15	.348	101/2
Sacramento	7	14	.333	101/2
New Orleans	5	16	.238	121/2

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Thursday's results
Atlanta 113 Charlotte 90
New York 116 L.A. Lakers 107
San Antonio at Portland

Wednesday's results
Brooklyn 94 Toronto 88
Indiana 96 Cleveland 81
Atlanta 86 Orlando 80
Golden State 97 Miami 95
L.A. Clippers 100 Charlotte 94
Chicago 96 Philadelphia 89
Boston 117 Dallas 115 OT
Milwaukee 98 Sacramento 85
Houston 99 Washington 93
Oklahoma City 92 New Orleans 88
Minnesota 108 Denver 105
Phoenix 82 Memphis 80
Utah 99 San Antonio 96

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Golden State at Orlando, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Golden State at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Utah, 9 p.m.

LATE WEDNESDAY

NETS 94, RAPTORS 88

BROOKLYN (94)
Johnson 7-14 5-6 23, Watson 4-7 4-4 16, Blatche 7-14 0-0 14, Williams 5-16 0-0 12, Humphries 1-1 9-10 11, Evans 3-3 3-4 9, Wallace 2-5 5-11 9, Bogans 0-1 0-0 0, Teletovic 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 29-64 26-35 94.

TORONTO (88)
Davis 11-13 2-3 24, Valanciunas 6-6 3-5 15, DeRozan 5-13 0-0 11, Calderon 4-13 0-0 10, Lucas 4-10 1-3 9, Gray 2-4 3-4 7, Ross 3-8 0-0 7, Pietrus 2-8 1-2 5. Totals 37-75 10-17 88.

Brooklyn	20	17	31	26 — 94
Toronto	27	18	19	24 — 88

3-Point Goals—Brooklyn 10-19 (Johnson 4-6, Williams 2-6, Watson 4-4, Teletovic 0-2, Bogans 0-1). Toronto 4-18 (Calderon 2-5, Pietrus 0-5, DeRozan 1-3, Ross 1-3, Lucas 0-2). **Rebounds—**Brooklyn 38 (Evans 11, Blatche 9, Watson 6, Humphries 2, Bogans 2, Johnson 2, Williams 2, Brooks 2, Wallace 1, Teletovic 1). Toronto 31 (Davis 12, DeRozan 5, Valanciunas 4, Calderon 3, Pietrus 2, Gray 2, Ross 2, Lucas 1). **Assists—**Brooklyn 20 (Johnson 4). Toronto 21 (Calderon 15). **Total Fouls—**Brooklyn 16, Toronto 25. A—18,847. T—2:20

NBA LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	22	215	167	643	29.2
Anthony, NYK	19	180	119	527	27.7
Durant, Okl	22	192	183	601	27.3
James, Mia	20	202	78	510	25.5
Harden, Hou	20	150	160	500	25.0
Westbrook, Okl	22	166	99	465	21.1
Aldridge, Por	20	166	87	419	21.0
Mayo, Dal	22	163	70	460	20.9
Pierce, Bos	21	133	117	418	19.9
Curry, GoS	22	148	75	430	19.5
Gay, Mem	19	137	66	363	19.1
Lee, GoS	22	171	75	417	19.0
Parker, SA	21	161	69	399	19.0
Ellis, Mil	20	137	84	373	18.7
Bosh, Mia	20	134	97	369	18.5
Lillard, Por	21	133	74	387	18.4
Howard, LAL	22	143	118	405	18.4
Holiday, Phi	22	162	58	404	18.4
Griffin, LAC	22	166	67	400	18.2
DeRozan, Tor	23	158	90	417	18.1
Anderson, NO	21	145	22	381	18.1
Deng, Chi	21	142	72	375	17.9
Duncan, SA	22	156	80	394	17.9
Walker, Cha	21	134	81	371	17.7
Randolph, Mem	19	134	66	334	17.6
West, Ind	22	159	67	385	17.5
Jefferson, Uta	22	165	52	383	17.4

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP

SEMIFINALS
At Yokohama, Japan
Thursday's result
Chelsea (England) 3, Monterrey (Mexico) 1

ENGLISH

FA CUP

SECOND ROUND
Thursday's results
Hastings United 1, Harrogate Town 1, Hastings United won 5-4 on penalty kicks

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	24	12	9	1	2	66	72	27
Providence	22	12	8	0	2	53	61	26
Portland	24	12	10	1	1	74	79	26
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25
St. John's	26	11	14	0	1	59	75	23

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32
Bridgeport	24	11	11	1	1	73	81	24
Connecticut	24	11	11	2	0	71	83	24
Albany	21	8	8	0	5	50	56	21
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	24	15	6	1	2	88	70	33
Binghamton	21	13	6	1	1	67	52	28
W-B/Scranton	23	13	8	1	1	68	61	28
Hershey	26	13	12	1	0	70	71	27
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	24	14	4	3	3	63	48	34
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27
Rochester	23	12	9	2	0	79	72	26
Lake Erie	26	12	12	1	1	80	85	26
Hamilton	22	9	11	1	1	46	68	20

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27
Chicago	23	11	9	2	1	62	69	25
Milwaukee	23	10	10	2	1	64	70	23
Peoria	24	9	11	2	2	57	82	22

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	25	14	9	0	2	82	71	30
Houston	23	13	7	1	2	76	64	29
Texas	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27
Oklahoma City	23	11	9	1	2	73	70	25
San Antonio	25	10	12	0	3	66	75	23

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.

Thursday's results
Rochester 7 Lake Erie 6
Hamilton 3 Chicago 4

Wednesday's results
Hershey 4 St. John's 0
W-B/Scranton 3 Albany 6
Worcester 1 Connecticut 2
Binghamton 3 Syracuse 4

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Albany at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Binghamton at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

Saturday's games
Houston at Charlotte, 12 p.m.
Manchester at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Providence at Albany, 7 p.m.
Portland at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
St. John's at Springfield, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Hamilton at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named Bobby Dickerson third base coach. Agreed to terms with OF Nate McLouth on a one-year contract.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with OF Shane Victorino on a three-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Correia on a two-year contract.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with INF Jack Hannahan on a two-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with INF Andres Blanco, INF Josh Fields, LHP Cesar Jimenez, C Steven Lerud, OF Jermaine Michell, INF/OF Michael Martinez, RHP Zach Miner, INF/OF Pete Orr and C Humberto Quintero on minor league contracts.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

KANSAS CITY T-BONE—Signed RHP Derek McGowan.
American West Baseball League
YUMA DESERT RATS—Named Hal McRae manager and Jake Thrower hitting-infield coach.

FRONTIER LEAGUE

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES—Signed RHP Ja'Vaun West to a contract extension.
RIVER CITY RASCALS—Signed RHP Gabe Shaw to a contract extension.

NFL

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Vic So'oto to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS—Signed TE Brandon Barden from the practice squad. Signed S Suaesi Tuimaunei to the practice squad.

CFL

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Signed OL Brendan Dunn, DB Teague Sherman and DB Jawann Westerman.

MLS

COLUMBUS CREW—Agreed to terms with MF Wil Trapp.
NEW YORK RED BULLS—Released D Rafa Marquez.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY—Signed D Yann Songo'o.

U.S. COLLEGE

ARKANSAS—Named Sam Pittman offensive line coach.
RUTGERS—Suspended men's Basketball coach Mike Rice three games and fined him $50,000 for a violation of department policy.
SOUTHERN MISS—Granted the release of the athletic scholarship of freshman QB Anthony Alford.
SPRING HILL—Announced the resignation of men's and women's tennis coach Michael Kreider.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	472	274
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	245	306
Miami	5	8	0	.385	240	276
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	289	352

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	11	2	0	.846	365	263
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	329
Tennessee	4	9	0	.308	271	386
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	216	359

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	331	273
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	321	280
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	259	272

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	10	3	0	.769	375	257
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	292	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	248	402
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	195	352

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	5	0	.615	373	270
Washington	7	6	0	.538	343	329
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	300	314
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	240	341

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	337	259
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	354	308
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	348	379
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	265	312

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	323	279
Chicago	8	5	0	.615	308	219
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	283	286
Detroit	4	9	0	.308	320	342

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	3	1	.731	316	184
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	300	202
St. Louis	6	6	1	.500	236	279
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	186	292

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 15

Thursday's result
Cincinnati at Philadelphia

Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, December 17
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

AUSTRALIAN PGA

At Coolum, Australia
Par 72
First Round

Daniel Popovic, Australia	33-31—64
Scott Strange, Australia	33-33—66
Zhang Xinjun, China	35-32—67
Choo Tze-huang, Singapore	34-33—67
Geoff Ogilvy, Australia	35-32—67
Jason Scrivener, Australia	33-35—68
Ryan Haller, Australia	33-35—68
Stephen Dartnall, Australia	33-35—68
Peter Senior, Australia	32-36—68
Brad Kennedy, Australia	34-35—69
Aaron Townsend, Australia	34-35—69
Bronson La'Cassie, Australia	35-34—69
Marc Leishman, Australia	33-36—69
Stephen Leaney, Australia	33-36—69
Steve Conran, Australia	34-35—69
Adam Bland, Australia	34-35—69
Josh Geary, New Zealand	34-35—69
Matthew Griffin, Australia	34-35—69
Steven Jones, Australia	34-36—70
Terry Pilkadaris, Australia	32-38—70
Michael Wright, Australia	35-35—70
James Nitties, Australia	34-36—70
Peter Fowler, Australia	35-35—70
Stuart Appleby, Australia	34-36—70
Adam Crawford, Australia	35-35—70
Steven Bowditch, Australia	36-34—70
Cameron Percy, Australia	38-32—70
Nick Flanagan, Australia	34-36—70
Darren Clarke, N Ireland	34-36—70
Leigh McKechnie, Australia	34-36—70
Peter Cooke, Australia	36-34—70
Gavin Flint, Australia	35-35—70
Jason Kang, United States	34-36—70
Matthew Guyatt, Australia	35-36—71
Ashley Hall, Australia	31-40—71
Anthony Summers, Australia	33-38—71
Mark Brown, New Zealand	34-37—71
David Smail, New Zealand	33-38—71
Jamie Arnold, Australia	36-35—71
Chris Gaunt, Australia	37-34—71
Park Hyo-won, South Korea	34-37—71
Mathew Goggin, Australia	34-37—71
Richard Green, Australia	36-35—71

ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

At Malelane, South Africa
Par 72
First round

Gregory Bourdy, France	32-34-66
Louis de Jager, South Africa	31-36-67
Oliver Bekker, South Africa	34-33-67
Steve Webster, England	34-33-67
Richard Bland, England	34-33-67
Darren Fichardt, South Africa	33-34-67
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	32-35-67
Graeme Storm, England	35-33-68
Mark Williams, South Africa	35-33-68
Branden Grace, South Africa	33-35-68
Maximilian Kieffer, Germany	35-33-68
Ockie Strydom, South Africa	36-33-69
Richard McEvoy, England	34-35-69
Robert Rock, England	35-34-69
Oscar Floren, Sweden	34-35-69
Tommy Fleetwood, England	34-35-69
David Drysdale, Scotland	32-37-69
Jaco van Zyl, South Africa	33-36-69
Espen Kofstad, Norway	34-35-69
Matthew Baldwin, England	33-36-69

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you can no longer see the point of something then there is no reason why you should go on wasting time on it. Turn your attention towards more interesting things today, such as your social life and travel.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
No matter how many times you have bet against the odds and won in the past, you are unlikely to fare so well today. Err on the side of caution. Both in your personal life and in your work, you must play it safe.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You seem reluctant to commit yourself to a plan or project that on most other occasions would appeal to you. Most likely your sixth sense is trying to tell you that it's too dangerous to get involved. Heed its warning.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is a danger that you will push yourself too hard and burn yourself out. Save as much of your physical, mental and emotional energy as you can today and over the weekend. You'll need it early next week.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What would you do if you knew that you could not fail? Cosmic activity in the sympathetic sign of Sagittarius indicates that your dreams really will come true — if you have the courage to reach for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your main task over the next 24 hours is to find a positive outlet for all the emotional energy that has been building up inside you. Activities of a physical nature are an especially good way to let off steam.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It never hurts to let those you love know how much you care for them and you will get the chance to do that today and over the weekend. What you give out now will come back to you later many times over.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
The planets suggest the efforts you make now will pay off in a big way around the middle part of next week. The powers that be have not forgotten you, but it doesn't hurt to remind them what you can do.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will fight with all your powers to get what it is you desire today and you won't take no for an answer. Your rivals will sense how serious you are and, for the most part, move aside rather than take you on.

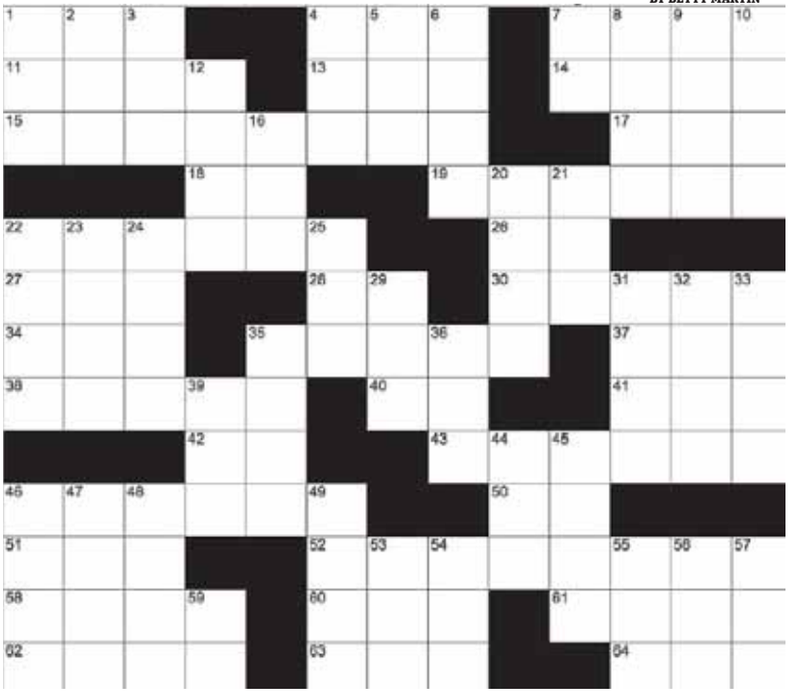
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your career plans are more likely to succeed if you keep your aims to yourself, at least for the next few days. The more you let rivals know what it is you desire, the easier you make it for them to deny you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have a different outlook and a different way of doing things to a colleague but ultimately you share the same goal, so find ways you can work together. Your differences can make you both stronger and more effective.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What happens today and over the weekend will open your eyes to new possibilities and make you realize how much more is possible. Banish negative thinking in all its forms — there's no need for it at all. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

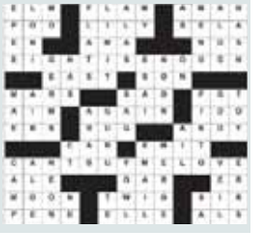
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. When Paris sizzles
4. Provoke
7. Red Muppet
11. Peeples and Vardalos
13. Actress — Dawn Chong
14. — to Avonlea
15. Trigger
17. The Plastic — Band
18. Sha – Na
19. Decent
22. Scope
26. – lieu of
27. Summer attire
28. – Elsewhere
30. Geeks
34. Ortiz of Ugly Betty
35. Garden pest
37. Important time
38. Elegant shop
40. Modern Family actor
41. Ziering of Beverly Hills, 90210
42. Providence state
43. Citrus fruit
46. Anderson of Baywatch
50. Plural suffix
51. Exist
52. Like some brides
58. Irritate
60. Cartoon shriek
61. Lake near Buffao
62. Darrin's boss on Bewitched
63. Trash bag closer
64. Right angle shape

Down
1. Disney doe
2. Spasm
3. Snack
4. Writer Levin
5. Alley rodent
6. Hang on to
7. Night time drama starring Noah Wyle
8. Noose
9. Lion's locks
10. Smell
12. Without
16. Moving vehicle
20. Coat that gets tossed
21. — Life to Live
22. Airport postings, for short
23. Princess warrior of TV
24. Shade of blue
25. Recipe abbr.
29. What's — use?
31. Harness strap
32. Trail
33. Lucid
35. Shrub
36. Wedding words
39. Mineral
44. Matter, in law
45. Tennis great Arthur
46. Actor's quest
47. Diva's solo
48. Thaw
49. Promote, as criminal intent
53. Flower garland
54. Hawaiian instrument (abbr.)
55. Tick off
56. Zip
57. Harden
59. Star of CHiPs (init.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

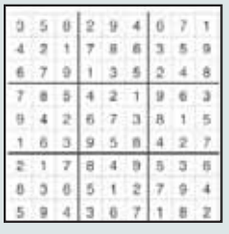
See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	9		8				3	
			7				8	4
		4	6		9	5	2	
	5	7						
2								6
						1	9	
	1	2	5		3	7		
7	8				4			
	6				1		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: -3° MIN: -14°	MAX: -2° MIN: -7°	MAX: -4° MIN: -7°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ METEOROLOGIST
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta".
WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

GOD IS GOOD

"Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits".(Psalm 103:2) The benefits of God to us this year 2012 are amazing: He supplied the air we breathe in, He kept us alive, He divinely provided for us, He kept us away from evil and above all we received our salvation at no cost. Who can be so magnanimous to provide all these benefits except the Almighty God? We have every reason to be grateful to God for His goodness, mercies and wondrous works.

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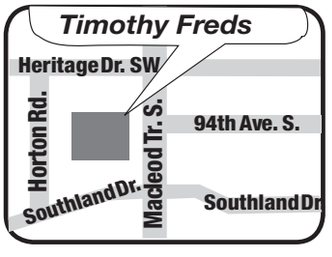

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